

Haiti Inspires Two Authors

Charm Of Island Told Twice — Each Eyes Voodoo Mysteries

HAITI: HIGHROAD TO ADVENTURE. By Hugh B. Cave. Henry Holt. \$5.

STRANGE ALTARS. By Marcus Bach. Bobbs-Merrill. \$3.

Reviewed by MARY DAVANT, Reference Dept. Cossbitt Library.

HAITI, black pearl of the West Indies, has been the subject of two books within recent weeks which complement one another. Hugh B. Cave's "Haiti: Highroad to Adventure" and Marcus Bach's "Strange Altars" are good companions for the armchair adventurer and the tourist alike.

Mr. Cave, former war correspondent, reports on Haiti after a three years' residence. He gives us the country, its people and their customs. Traveling in a jeep the Cave family leaves the coastal cities to the conventional tourist and pushes into the remote sections, discovering the charm of the countryside.

Roads Not For The Timid

Haitian roads are not for the timid but they lead to scenery that is second to none. Through lush tropical vegetation or pine forests through desert stretches and past breath takingly beautiful waterfalls one travels an enchanted way.

Mr. Cave found the peasants a happy, friendly people, always ready with a cheerful greeting or a helping hand. Everywhere there were people; women washing clothes, their children, or themselves in the rivers. Men materialized even in a downpour of rain to push the jeep when in difficulty. And always there were the marchands carrying produce to market with rhythm and grace in tireless stride. They formed "vast rivers of humanity born of countless tiny trickles in the high wilderness . . . pouring into the cities. Were these rivers to cease flowing the cities of Haiti would starve."

Centre d'Art Described

He devotes a chapter to the Centre d'Art which is doing so much toward developing the artistic abilities of the natives. Through its patronage Haitian art has been exhibited around the world. Music is deep rooted. Rhythm of voodoo drums echos through the land and has contributed much to modern musical composition.

There is a chapter on Haitian foods, what to eat and how to prepare it. Practical advice is offered the tourist on where to shop, what to buy and how much to pay for it. A glossary offers aid to the traveler in use of creole terms. About 40 photographs taken by the author enhance the volume.

The thread of voodooism which is part and parcel of Haitian life runs throughout the book. Mr. Cave won the confidence of the mambo and houngan and was admitted to their ceremonies freely. He presents a voodoo different from that of Seabrook and his predecessors. Rather it is a sincere religious belief of a primitive race that has continued in the worship of its ancestors.

Emphasis On Cult

"Strange Altars," by Marcus Bach, a student of religions and author of several books on smaller sects of North America, is an extended study of voodooism as it influences Haitian life.

With his wife, Mr. Bach sought the guidance of Dr. Stanley Reser, who through long years of service in Haiti has become identified with the people and their religion—perhaps is even a priest of voodoo. Under his tutelage the Bachs were able to attend ceremonies and study rituals seldom witnessed outside the faith. They came close to voodoo, learned the meaning of its symbolism, penetrated many of its mysteries and stood in the presence of the loa.

With them we hear the drums of the island, experience their hypnotic spells and understand at least in part, their influence upon the worshippers.

No Associational Conflict

The Protestant and Catholic Churches have battled with little success against voodoo. It is found in all walks of Haitian life today. To the native there was no enmity between the religions. He simply opened the doors of his faith to embrace Christian saints and voodoo loa alike. Le Bon Dieu is acknowledged and respected but does not replace the gods of his fathers. There are striking parallels with the Catholic ritual and

many of its feast days are the same.

Neither author found any foundation for tales of excesses and orgies frequently associated with voodoo. If they ever existed they do not seem to be there today. The boco, or v'itch doctor, is regarded as a worker in black magic and generally shunned by the islanders. The devotions of the Haitian are sincere. Mr. Bach finds the rites of the cult marked with a "profound worshipful impulse common to all believing people."

Haiti has a charm which follows the traveler wherever he goes. Once visited its lure remains and its voice is heard calling like the muffled throb of its drums, "Come to me. Come to me. Come to me."

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

One of the most cheering aspects of the South is its inconsistency. A good example of this is a new book called "To Win These Rights" by Lucy Randolph Mason, a Virginian and a staunch defender of civil rights.

Miss Mason writes here of her experiences as a roving ambassador for the CIO from 1937 to the present. There is a foreword by Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt.

Miss Mason is a descendant of a number of well-known and influential Southern families. Her background and the fact that she was a woman often made it possible for her to get hearing for the cause she represented.

The manner in which representatives of the CIO were beaten, threatened and variously intimidated is known to newspaper readers of the thirties.

What Miss Mason adds to this general account is an intimate knowledge of the men in the organizing drive and of those who actively opposed unionization.

Often it was necessary to call on the Department of Justice for protection against local law enforcement agencies who went to

any lengths to keep the unions out of their bailiwicks. On several occasions Miss Mason appealed directly to Mrs. Roosevelt for assistance who in turn passed the information on to the President and an investigation resulted. The New Deal labor legislation of the early Roosevelt administration offered legal support to the CIO drives to unionize the South. But there was much local opposition.

Miss Mason entered this field in 1937 at the age of 55, a vigorous fighter for equality of opportunity for Negroes as well as for the CIO. The CIO's policy of signing up all workers regardless of race or craft brought added resistance from many industrialists and at times from the Klan.

This brief volume is a tribute to one woman's courage, initiative and fair-mindedness. It is a book which probably will not have wide general appeal although the history of this struggle to unionize the South should be known. Miss Mason and the men with whom she worked, many of whom were Southerners, are a happy indication of the liberality of many Southerners.

Miss Mason's final words point the way to a new future: in the South: "In recent years the wall has begun to crumble. While many forces have worked toward this end, the union movement has been at the forefront, drawing the energies of once prejudiced people into a joint endeavor that overcomes every barrier."

"To Win These Rights" by Lucy Randolph Mason; Harper and Brothers; 49 E. 33rd st.; New York City; 1952; \$3.00.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin"

This year marks a hundred years since the appearance of "Uncle Tom's Cabin." Dodd, Mead and Company have recently published a handsome illustrated centenary edition with an Introduction by Langston Hughes.

Harriet Beecher Stowe wrote in her Preface that "The object of these sketches is to awaken sympathy and feeling for the African race, as they exist among us; to show their wrongs and sorrows, under a system so necessarily cruel and unjust as to defeat and do away the good effects of all that can be attempted for them,

by their best friends under it." Certainly Mrs. Stowe succeeded in doing this; in a year 300,000 copies had been sold in the United States and 150,000 in England. Reading through "Uncle Tom's Cabin" again it has a surprising vitality still. Mr. Hughes' Introduction tells of the great impact the book had on its generation. He reports the remark Lincoln made when he met the author: "So this is the little lady who started the big war."

The publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" as an addition to Dodd Mead's Great Illustrated Classics resulted from a poll of more than three thousand libraries seeking suggestions for the series. "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was an overwhelming first choice.

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" by Harriet Beecher Stowe; Dodd, Mead and Company; 432 Fourth ave.; New York City; 1952; \$2.95.

JOYCE JACKSON GOES ON A DATE: Teen-Age Dating Etiquette for Girls, by Joyce Jackson (Joyce Jackson, Box 93, New Haven, Conn., \$2).

BOOKS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA, by Basil Davidson, (British Book Centre, \$3.50).

SPORTSMAN'S ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUAL, by Jack O'Connor (Garden City, \$2.98). "All about the selection, care and handling of sporting firearms and their accessories."

AFRICAN SCULPTURE SPEAKS, by Ladislas Segy (Wyn, \$7.50). An appraisal of African art.

ALIAS UNCLE HUGO, by Manning Coles (Doubleday, \$2.50). A Crime Club detective story.

AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER'S HANDBOOK, by Aaron Sussman (Crowell, \$2.75). A revised edition of a guide first published in 1948.

Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

THE FON OF BIKOM, sacred and absolute king of the Kom tribe in the British Cameroons, sits in royal and drunken state upon a stone throne on a mountaintop in tropical Africa without an inkling of his world celebrity. When the United Nations Trusteeship Council sent a commission to investigate the Fon's hundred wives the Fon could no more grasp what was

going on than he could have read reports about himself in American newspapers. But the commission decided that the Fon's private life was outside its jurisdiction. That was where Rebecca Hourwich Reyher entered the Fon's story. As the author of a book on African polygamy, "Zulu Woman," she felt that here was an opportunity not to be missed. Mrs. Reyher went to Africa for nine months. For six weeks she lived in the Fon's kingdom, for two of them as his guest in the royal compound. Her report on her findings is published today, "The Fon and His Hundred Wives."*



The Fon of Bikom

Rebecca Reyher is an enterprising and courageous woman. She traveled for thousands of miles across Africa by station wagon with an incompetent native driver. She antagonized British Colonial officers and Roman Catholic and Protestant missionaries alike with her suspicious questions. During her two weeks as the Fon's guest she was the only white person in the district and through her interpreter she was asking many people highly personal questions.

Mon. Dec. 29-52
A Plurality Found Invidious

Mrs. Reyher went to Africa bitterly opposed to "the realistic approach" to polygamy, which regards it as economic in origin, a traditional and popular part of native society. She left Africa even more opposed to polygamy, convinced that it was a cruel system which brought much misery to African women.

Since both polygamy and African royalty are exotic and colorful subjects, "The Fon and His Hundred Wives" contains much interesting material. But this is not nearly so interesting a book as it might have been. It is written ineptly and organized clumsily. Mrs. Reyher has strung together a series of notes on her trip, on the Fon and his wives and on the customs and beliefs of the Kom tribe. The result is a scrappy and un-

The Fon of Bikom is a tottering old man who has to be supported whenever he walks a step or two. He claims to be 100 years old or more. Mrs. Reyher guesses that he is close to 90. The exact number of his wives is unknown. But, since British officials made it clear that no wife could be kept against her will, fifty-four have run away. Among those who are left the old wives exercise a cruel domination, beating and abusing young ones who incur their displeasure. But several young wives who are the Fon's particular favorites enjoy a privileged status.

The chief reason why wives run away from the elderly Fon is their desire for a normal marriage and children, which is impossible in the royal compound because of the Fon's great age. Other wives, who do not flee, take lovers and have children, which the Fon blandly accepts as his own. In his younger days no wife dared run away and it still requires unusual courage to do so and risk his displeasure. He may not inspire much personal affection, but he is still revered as an incarnate deity. But his actual power is waning and he has no heir.

Heritage From Servile Mothers

Inheritance among the Koms is through the females. The Fon's sons are not eligible for the succession. His sisters' sons would be eligible, but he has no nephews, only a niece, a domineering woman who makes the most of her royal rank. Mrs. Reyher interviewed this unpleasant woman at length and learned much about the subservient lot of Kom women from the one Kom woman who was an exception and subservient to no one. Women among the Koms are property. They are paid for in marriage (except by the Fon, who gets his wives free). They do all the work in the fields while the men sit by in idleness. With tribal warfare outlawed by the British and big game no longer abundant, the men have lost their customary pursuits and have nothing to do.

Obedience is the prime feminine virtue among the Koms. "What does it mean to be a good wife to the Fon?" Mrs. Reyher asked several of his oldest wives. "You have had so many years' experience."

"To be a good wife to the Fon—to any husband—you must do everything you are told, when you are told. You must obey all orders instantly. And you must keep the house clean." But this ideal of marriage has its drawbacks. Romantic love is an almost unknown conception among the Koms. The modern world is impinging upon them, but women's rights are yet to come. A man who beats a woman not his wife is fined, but it is still perfectly all right for a man to beat his own wife.

Such notions outrage Mrs. Reyher, and so do the autocratic powers of the Fons of the Cameroons. It is time for a change, she thinks. The British system of not meddling with most native customs seems very wrong to her. That the African women would benefit greatly from some enlightened meddling is the thesis of this book.

*THE FON AND HIS HUNDRED WIVES. By Rebecca Reyher. Illustrated with forty-one photographs. 318 pages. Doubleday. \$3.95.

even book which seems stretched out to a greater length than its material warrants.

Book Club Notes

Its 20th Year.

Cyprus American

BALTIMORE

Rain dampened the evening but not the enjoyment of Dr. Arthur P. Davis's talk to the Book-A-Month Club, on the occasion of its silver anniversary, Friday, at the Coppin State Teachers' College auditorium.

Dr. Davis, of the English department of Howard University, talked on "Trends in Negro Literature in the Past Ten Years."

Among the many books cited by Dr. Davis were William G. Smith's "Last of the Conquerors," Owen Dotson's "A Boy at the Window," Anne Petry's "The Street," and Ralph Ellison's "Invisible Man."

Dr. Davis was introduced by Dr. Miles W. Connor. Mrs. Lois J. Carter, club president, gave greetings, and Mrs. Viola C. Jackson, charter member, gave a history of the club over its quarter-century existence.

WE MOMS SCORE

Those who discounted the weather and betook themselves to We Mom's formal ball at Elks' Auditorium, Friday, had themselves an evening of utter loveliness.

It was quite a night for the girls... what with their cocktail parties preceding, and breakfasts including pre-parties by Mr. and Mrs. James Murray and Ella Tucker following.

BOOK REVIEW

By CARTER JEWEL

The Harlem Globetrotters, America's most popular basketball players, got a big hand in Frank Waldman's athletic review for 1951. This team, born Jan. 27, 1927, had to suffer through several years of hardships and low income before their skill and ability at basketball began to pay off in big money.

In fact the team had to reluctantly agree to their English-born manager's suggestion that comedy be mixed with sports to attract attention and to bring novelty to the team. And that is what helped to bring success to the team.

The best way to disclose the comedy angle of the games is to relate what Waldman writes about one of the games in Iron Mountain, Mich. He says:

"One night when they (the Globetrotters) were playing in Iron Mountain, Mich., the game was nearing its close and the Globetrotters were holding the spectators entranced with what has become their closing routine. It involved a lot of fancy ball-playing. One of the regular tricks called for Inman Jackson, the Globetrotters' center, to take the ball and spin it rapidly on one finger. That night he performed the trick and, as usual, the crowd applauded. Tony Wapp, a full-blooded Indian, who was playing on the other team, quickly grabbed the ball from Jackson's hand."

Imitates Him

"You haven't done anything," he sneered. "Give me the ball." As though to convey meaning to the night's spectators, Wapp thereupon spun the ball on his own finger, imitating perfectly Jackson's trick. The Indian's gesture brought down the house. It also angered and embarrassed Jackson. He had to do something and quickly, to top his opponent.

"Without thinking, Jackson snatched the ball and stalked to the foul line before one of the nets. There he stopped and, while the other players as well as the spectators looked on open-mouthed calmly drop - kicked the ball through the hoop. Going through, it did not so much as touch the rim. Jackson turned to Wapp:

"Try that," he said triumphantly and walked off the floor."

Speaking of the Globetrotters, Waldman says "In their own field, they are the very best in the busi-

ness."

Joe Louis, Larry Doby of the Cleveland Indians, and other colored athletes are mentioned. The author devotes more space to Jackie Robinson of the Brooklyn Dodgers, and he gives both Jackie and Branch Rickey credit for pioneering in interracial baseball and opening the door to more colored in that field.

Book Reviewer Tours India

J. Saunders Redding, noted author and AFRO book reviewer, has gone to New Delhi, India as lecturer at Binational and United States information centers and universities throughout India. General theme of his talks will be American literature and cultural life in the United States.

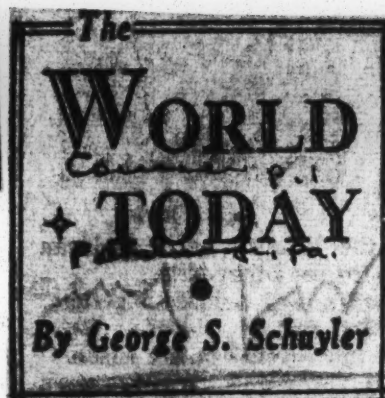
A grant from the Educational Exchange Service of the Department of State has been awarded to him for his lecturing tour. Objective of the exchange program is to promote better understanding of the United States in other countries through personal contact.

Redding is the author of several books on racial problems. His most recent is "On Being a Negro in America."

Several of the topics upon which Redding will speak are:

Working philosophies of American colored writers, books and men, social aims in American writing in the 30's and 40's, the colored writer—shadow and substance and myths about colored persons.

He will tour India for about four months, speaking before cultural and literary leaders, university students and faculty members and other interested groups.



Department of Labor statistics recently released compel some revision of our thinking about "the problem." On April 2, non-white employment was 95.4 per cent, while 97.6 of whites had jobs. In July it was the same. Since 1940 Negro farm workers have declined from 35.1 per cent to 14.5 per cent, with white farm employment now 10.2 per cent. Both black and white have become urbanized, and almost all are working.



A DISTANT HONOR was accorded Miss Alma I. Morrow, when her thesis, "Publications of Land Grant Colleges," was selected as an outstanding contribution to the field by the College and Research Libraries quarterly. Hers was one of the 80 odd throughout the nation listed in that publication. Miss Morrow is shown above working at A. and T. college, Greensboro, N. C., where she is head librarian.



IN DISTINGUISHED COMPANY—Carl T. Rowan, 27-year-old Minneapolis Morning Tribune staff writer, belongs to an unusual group. He is one of five Minneapolis Star and Tribune authors, posing here, who have had books published in the past year. Reporter Rowan, seated at far right, holds his book, "South of Freedom," a personal documentary on race relations garnered primarily from his prize winning news se-

ries, "How Far From Slavery," a biographical report of a Negro's return to the Southland. The four other authors are, left to right: Cedric Adams, Minneapolis Star and Sunday Tribune; John K. Sherman, book, music and art critic for the same newspaper; Clifford Simak, Minneapolis Star news editor, and Arthur Upgren, Minneapolis Star economics consultant and University of Minnesota economics professor.

U.S.A. CONFIDENTIAL:

Anti-Racial Propaganda Hatched In New Book

Anti-racial propaganda, libel and unmitigated falsehoods more nauseous than anything hatched up by the Ku Klux Klan is found in the recently released book "U.S.A. Confidential" by two irresponsible newspapermen, Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer.

This is a sequel to their other books about Washington, Chicago and New York, all of which were branded as libelous and strongly anti-racial, written hurriedly and with little regard for accuracy or good reporting, based as they were on hearsay and unsubstantiated street corner gossip in which reputable businessmen were branded as gangsters, underworld characters and hoodlums.

Some of the offensive paragraphs found in "U.S.A. Confidential" are:

Like Segregation

"To the typical Southern Negro segregation is the accepted way of life. He knows no other. Apparently he is happier with it than he would be mixing with white folk."

(Editor's Note — By this reasoning the people of Europe were happy and welcomed Hitler's concentration camps.)

Most colored men who left the south came North in search of better earnings. Few set fourth in pursuit of civil liberties.

That came later whipped up by rabble rousers.

"Much of this movement northward is directed, as it was initiated, by superior brains from above. Very little is impromptu. The Democratic Raw Dealers, fighting desperately to keep control of the country forever, conceived the idea of mass movement of potential voters into weak and doubtful spots. The devise was first used as a political devise by New York maverick Mayor LaGuardia, who arranged the importation of hundreds of thousands into Harlem guaranteeing to put them on

relief." (Editor's Note—This is a lie such as would put even a Goebbels to shame) but what follows is even a bigger lie).

Blames New Deal

"The success of these large scale directed migrations awakened other politicians to the gold strike and they sent colonizers down to the deep South, loaded with big talk and bus fares. As the new voters arrived in the North they were put on welfare rolls or given government or municipal jobs. When these were not available jobs in private industry were commandeered."

EDITOR'S NOTE — The authors undoubtedly never heard of the long fight for an FEPC in an effort to get jobs for colored labor in industry.

"The colonizing agents are often CIO or NAACP field officers with assistance from Americans for Democratic Action, Eleanor Roosevelt and other tune callers of the crackpot set who dished up the advance propaganda to get the Negroes in the proper mood for the major move which meant cutting off family ties, uprooting from land lived on for generations and facing a new civilization — all hazardous for unskilled, uneducated minorities."

Hatred Shown

The lies and misinformation of the authors gets worse and more libelous as the book continues as the following proves:

"As you turn these pages you will see that in no instance is a Northern Negro Community ever closed up regardless of how tight the curfew is on other parts of town. Regardless of the community, drinking, doping, gambling and whoring are permitted in all of them, blatant, unashamed and around the clock.

Actual arrest figures show that Negroes with one tenth of the population commit 50 per cent of the crimes. But any policeman will tell you that less than one in five Negroes is apprehended. In many big cities all Negro murders are

put down as traffic accidents. Knifings are disorderly conduct not even that."

Boston has already banned the book and a suit for \$500,000 has been filed by a Sheriff in Tulsa, Okla., with more suits to follow. In Washington John H. Carter, capital bail bondsman has also filed suit for a large sum over statements linking him to the numbers racket in "Washington Confidential."

Don't Want Equality

"Following the Civil War after Americans had killed and impoverished the conquered south they left it with millions of d-kies freed by force and given rhetorical equality. Many of the ex-slaves had no conception of such blessings. Their African forefathers had never been free or equal. (Editor's Note —The authors have no knowledge of African history.) They were still slaves without the advantage of slavery-security."

"Then came reorganization and conflict. They were recruited as strike breakers notably in meat packing and stevedoring. Jim crow sections were imposed. The Negroes did not mind segregation. They welcomed it; they liked being with their own better than with the Ofays. Wages were high by Southern standards and they sent for more of their people."

World War I

"Then came World War I. Every source of manpower was tapped. Then came Woodrow Wilson's draft order. There were no exemptions. Many thousands of colored men were trained, they travelled and saw new vistas; some remained north after the victory. Many who came to earn white man's wages would never return to their birthplaces.

The census bureau places the Colored population at 15,000,000. By our own dead reckoning it should be far more.

For many reasons, blacks are not counted as such, including shifts, sleeping around the clock,

overcrowding of tenements beyond legal rate, fear of guys with badges etc. Many Negroes are on the lam, others have no permanent address moving often from one rooming house to another. Many census takers are afraid to visit Colored slums, so they guess. Colored census takers don't even bother — they turn in faked figures and collect their fee."

Gloster, Tilman, Farrison Edit New College Readings

HAMPTON, Va.—English heads at Hampton Institute, Atlanta University, and North Carolina College at Durham have joined talents in editing a new anthology of readings, "My Country, My World," published this month by Prentice Hall, Inc. New York. The editors are Dr. Hugo M. Gloster, Hampton; Dr. N. P. Tillman, Atlanta; and Dr. W. E. Farrison, North Carolina College.

Preliminary reviews of the book have been favorable, and it is expected that the anthology will be adopted on its merits as a freshman textbook by colleges throughout the nation.

Reading, Taylor Co-Author Book

HAMPTON, Va.—Co-author and co-editors of a new textbook in English composition, "Reading for Writing," are J. Saunders Redding, professor of English at Hampton Institute, and Ivan E. Taylor, head of the Department of English at Howard University.

The text, published last week by the Ronald Press Publishing Co., will be used in freshman and sophomore composition classes at Howard and at other universities next fall.

The 421-page book of readings and composition exercises contains selections from authors as varied in their contributions as Enslin, Thomas Huxley, and James Thurber. Its three main sections are literary, historical, and sociological in their emphasis.

The first section, "My Life," deals with adjustment in college, social life, and marriage and with codes of conduct. The second, "My Country," assembles classic

democratic statements from the Mayflower Compact to Roosevelt's "Four Freedoms" and includes articles on contemporary social problems; section III, "My World," presents essays treating the physical universe and world society.

The selection covers a wide range of thought, from Francis Bacon to Philip Wylie, Plato to Harry Emerson Fosdick, Patrick Henry to Max Lerner, John Henry Newman to Albert Einstein.

Alain Locke hits Negro authors commercialism

ATLANTA—Extreme commercialism of Negro writers who are leaving it to white authors to delineate Negro life, is criticized in the Spring issue of Phylon, Atlanta university's Review of Race and Culture, in a review of literature of the Negro for 1951 by Dr. Alain Locke.

Dr. Locke, who is a professor of English literature at Howard university, acknowledges that the Negro is moving into the field of general authorship—a desirable trend, liquidating the double literary standard and the cultural color line, but the white author is becoming the "bold and competent delineator of Negro life," he said.

Negro authors are frank bidders for commercial success, Dr. Locke charged; and he enjoined such successful novelists as Frank Yerby ("Foxes of Harrow," etc.), assured now of both income and audience, "to be giving thought to a position in American letters rather than merely being on the best-seller lists." This would be "sheer prudence" on Yerby's part, said Locke.

Negro writer Willard Motley's "We Fished All Night" is "an obvious bid for success in social criticisms," and no runner up performance to James Farrell, or Cain, or James Jones, and certainly not to Richard Wright, to whose mantle Motley, with more concern for the necessary illusion even of realism, could aspire."

Continuing the scholarly professor observed:

"The high price of integration exacts a double toll; in the general field, the competition is keen, the pace swift and the odds of success proportionately greater, while the same has become true for the special field of both the fiction and social analysis of Negro life due to the exceptionally penetrating recent performances of white writers in these areas. We are for the moment on the red side of the ledger, and one reason for this is the inevitable but transitory deflection of some of our strongest talent into the general field."

In such white authors as Abram Kardiner, Lionel Ovesey, Arnold Rose and Wilson Record, "a challenging virtuosity has developed that must put Negro sociologists and sociologists and historians on their utmost guard and mettle, for these men have impeccable thoroughness and objectivity in addi-

tion to the virtue of penetration that no argument about the necessity for inside minority insight is relevant or justifiable," the scholar concluded.

Other Books of the Week

ART

RIBERA. By Elizabeth Trapier. 306 pp. plus plates. New York: Hispanic Society of America. \$9. A critique of the seventeenth-century Spanish painter, illustrated with examples of his art.

FRENCH IMPRESSIONS. Introduction and comment by Clive Bell. 18 pp. 50 plates. Distributed for the Phaidon Press by Garden City Books, Garden City, N. Y. \$4.95.

SOUTH CAROLINA IN THE SHORT STORY. Edited by Katharine M. Jones and Mary Schlaefer. 176 pp. Columbia, S. C.: University of South Carolina Press. \$3.50. A collection of sixteen short stories by South Carolina writers.

BEYOND THE BREAKERS. By Sara Ware Bassett. 223 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$2.75. An unwanted daughter's problems.

A LANTERN FOR JEREMY. By V. J. Jerome. 288 pp. New York: Masses & Mainstream. \$2.50. Life in a Polish village during the 1905 revolution in Russia.

BERTRAND RUSSELL'S DICTIONARY OF MIND, MATTER AND MORALS. Edited with an introduction by Lester E. Denonn. 290 pp. New York: Philosophical Library. \$5.

THE YOUNG WAGE-EARNER: A Study of Glasgow Boys. By T. Ferguson and J. Cunnison. 194 pp. New York: Oxford University Press. \$2.

A SHAKESPEARE COMPANION, 1550-1950. By F. E. Halliday. 742 pp. Illustrated. New York: Funk & Wagnalls. \$8.50.

A SHORT CHRONOLOGY OF AMERICAN HISTORY, 1492-1950. By Irving S. and Nell M. Kull. 388 pp. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press. \$6.50.

WHO'S WHO IN UNITED STATES POLITICS. (1952 Edition) Edited by Richard Nowinson. 943 pp. Illustrated. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$25.

ITALY TODAY. Edited by Giovanni Engley. 362 pp. New York: American Transmarine Company. \$10.

RELIGION

BEST SERMONS. (1951-1952) Edited by G. Paul Butler. 358 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$3.75.

MORAL AND PASTORAL THEOLOGY: A Summary. By Henry Davis, S.J. 484 pp. New York: Sheed & Ward. \$5.

THE CITY OF GOD. Books VIII-XVI. By Saint Augustine. Translated by Gerald G. Walsh, S.J., and Grace Monahan, O.S.U. Vol. 14 in The Fathers of the Church Series. 567 pp. New York: Fathers of the Church, Inc. \$5.

QUEEN WITHOUT A CROWN: The Preacher's Wife. By Loyd E. Williams. Illustrations by Boyed Reed. 97 pp. San Antonio: The Naylor Company. \$2.50.

RUSSIA WILL BE CONVERTED. By John M. Haffert. 270 pp. Illustrated. Washington, N. J.: AMI International Press. \$3.

A MAN AND HIS GOD. By Russell J. Humbert. 124 pp. Nashville: Abingdon-Cokesbury. \$1.50.

RELIGION, HEALING AND HEALTH. By James Dale Van Buskirk, M.D. 153 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.50.

GOD AND NATURE. By G. F. Stout. 339 pp. New York: Cambridge University Press. \$7. The second of two volumes based on the Gifford lectures delivered in the University of Edinburgh in 1919 and 1921.

KEYS TO RICHER LIVING. By Lewis L. Dunnigton. 136 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$2.

TRAVEL DESCRIPTION

TIDE OF LONDON. By Mervyn Savill. 176 pp. New York: British Book Centre. \$10.

THE GRAND TOUR IN ITALY: 1700-1800. By P. F. Kirby. 214 pp. New York: S. F. Vanni. \$5.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY AND CITY. By A. R. Woolley. 208 pp. New York: Oxford University Press. \$4.25.

MYTHS AND LEGENDS OF MAORILAND. By A. W. Reed. 230 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$3.50. Folk-tales from New Zealand.

THE MISTAKEN LAND. By Michael Ardizzone. 210 pp. New York: British Book Centre. \$2. A journalist's view of South Africa.

LANCASHIRE. By Walter Greenwood. 303 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$3. A tour of the English northern counties.

THE SCOTTISH SCENE. Photographs by Alfred Furness. Text by John L. Weir. 105 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$7.

THE SCOTTISH HIMALAYAN EXPEDITION. By W. H. Murray. 282 pp. New York: The Macmillan Company. \$6. The story of a climbing expedition in Tibet and Nepal.

WORLD AFFAIRS

FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD ORGANIZATION: A POLITICAL AND CULTURAL APPRAISAL. Edited by Lyman Bryson and others. New York: Harper & Bros. \$4. A symposium.

STALIN'S SLAVE CAMPS. By Charles A. Orr. 105 pp. Boston: The Beacon Press. Cloth, \$1.75. Paper, 75 cents.

THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE WAR CONVENTION. By Harold J. Sherman. 156 pp. New York: The Exposition Press. \$3. An analysis of the Warsaw Convention on International Transportation by Air.

INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION. By Norman Hill. 627 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. \$5.

THE ORGANIZATIONAL WEAPON: A STUDY OF BOL-SHEVIK STRATEGY AND TACTICS. By Philip Selznick. 350 pp. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company. \$5.

THE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE PRINCIPAL ORGANS OF THE UNITED NATIONS. By Hossein Fakher. 200 pp. New York: The Staples Press. \$3.50.

THE UNITED STATES AND WORLD RELATIONS. By Lillian T. Mowrer and Howard H. Cummings. 466 pp. New York: Harper & Bros. \$3.48.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Modern man, as well as modern woman, will be interested in "The Many Lives of Modern Woman" by Sidonie M. Gruenberg and Hilda Sidney Krech. Sub-titled "a guide to happiness in her complex role," the book examines the so-called "privileged" woman of the middle class who has a choice of career or not when she marries. The authors are mother and daughter, a happy arrange-

ment which enables them to span the problems of the young as well as the older woman.

"The Many Lives of Modern Woman" is intended as an antidote to such defeatist books as "Modern Woman: The Lost Sex" and other writings which go so far as to suggest that the answer to woman's dilemma is a back-to-the-kitchen crusade. The authors outline the wide variety of duties the young mother of today faces and the sense of frustration and harassment which she usually feels. This, they believe is due partly to the fact that she has not been educated to look forward to marriage realistically.

The answer for many women will lie in part-time jobs, for others in volunteer civic work. There are others, of course, who will continue to find satisfaction in being good housewives. But for many young women who marry after college the solution is not an either or one as far as a career is concerned. The authors answer successfully also the criticisms that are sometimes directed against working mothers.

For the present, however, as Mrs. Gruenberg and Mrs. Krech point out here, there are not enough part-time jobs available, and many young women do not feel that they should hold full-time jobs while their children are young. Besides, the difficulty of getting adequate household help is a problem which the authors do not underline enough. They state that in the future there will be more well-trained household workers, but as of now, many young women find their choice of career determined to a great extent by the availability of reliable help.

"The Many Lives of Modern Woman" is a surprisingly wordy book for such a short one. But it does offer an insight into the mind of today's woman, and suggest a number of ways out for her since modern man must cooperate if his wife is to find an outlet outside the home for her abilities, it behooves him to read this book also. Even the unmarried male will find it helpful in understanding what is in the mind of woman.

"The Many Lives of Modern Woman" by Sidonie M. Gruenberg and Hilda Sidney Krech;

Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison ave., New York City; 1952; \$2.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Int. 5-31-52

he is an Oregonian now living in Georgia who has already established himself as one of the greatest storytellers of our time. This book has its exciting moments but for the most part it lacks reality and its characters are types rather than real people.

"The Bengal Tiger" by Hall Hunter; Doubleday and Company; New York City; 1952; \$3.50

"SHILOH"

Another recent novel which has far more to recommend it than "The Bengal Tiger" and which should have a far greater place in the literature of the day is the story of a battle based on historical facts in which the his- torical characters speak and act as they did at the time.

Mr. Foote has told his story through a number of Union and Confederate soldiers. In alternating chapters the reader is able to watch the preparations for battle and the battle itself as it was seen by men on either side. As in Stephen Crane's "Red Badge of Courage" the small everyday details are the ones the fighters remember and each can contribute only a limited view of the whole.

The author has used the material available to him to such good effect that the reader is carried back in time to the battle of which he writes. Yet there is much that these soldiers expect, Latah, as a reward for his services, and Simon finds his life further complicated.

There are a number of things basic emotions: fear, despair, his feelings at the sight of the wounded and the dead, do not change over the ages. The author has so successfully shown the effect of war on the lives of these two lovely women, one a child of few men that his book has a universal appeal.

"Shiloh" is not only an important contribution to the literature of the Civil War but another pen- etrating glimpse into the hearts of the same everywhere.

"Shiloh" by Shelby Foote; Dial Press; New York City; 1952; \$2.75.

Hall Hunter is a pseudonym the author of the "Bengal Tiger" has used here. The cover blurbe says

Cleric's Work On New Book

ATLANTA—Dr. Harry V. Richardson, president of Gammon Theological seminary, is one of two Negroes whose sermons are included in the 1952 edition of "Best Sermons," published by the McMillan company of New York City.

Dr. Richardson's message is entitled "Communion Meditation." It is a brief but intensive consideration of both the spiritual and the social implications of the Lord's Supper.

DID AUTHOR MISINTERPRET NEGRO EMOTIONAL REACTIONS

The Mark of Oppression, reviewed in your About Books column recently, has produced mixed reaction from readers throughout the country.

Charles W. Collins, a psycho-therapist at Lafargue clinic in New York, writing in the May issue of The National Medical Association Journal, disagreed with the author's interpretation of Negro emotional reactions. He said in part:

"This book should be labeled for what it is: a cruel and monumental fraud! The authors get lost in a web of alternate labored prose and lucid statement of fact and wishful thinking, and a vigorous social criticism and naive analytical distortion.

"A more accurate title would be 'What Me and Ovesey, et al, think about 14,000,000 Negroes as a result of naively accepting as true what 25 Negroes say they think about themselves.

"A major fault with this study is the indiscriminate use of the definite article. The authors' unsound generalizations are the antitheses of scientific inquiry.

"With no controls and so much uncertainty regarding the experimental group, this psychosocial study becomes as accurate and-or as useful as that of a florist who measures the complex odors of a greenhouse with a crooked yardstick in order to determine the price of corsages."

Collins also is critical of the authors small sample group.

In the Mark of Oppression, Kar-diner and Ovesey collate the analyses of some 25 Negroes, divided for their purposes into two classes—lower and middle upper—and eight skin color and find evidence of a basic ego person-ality which is a "caricature" of the corresponding white personal-

ity.

However, Mrs. Lucille Chambers Norman, a social worker on the staff of Community Service Society, New York, took a different view of the book. She was vigorous in her defense of it. Among other things she said:

"I've done some form of case work since 1935, and I agree more nearly to the view in Mark of Oppression than any of the theories of Dollard, Allison Davis or Rueter of Iowa.

True he gave only 25 case studies which cannot possibly take in any race, but they give a great insight into at least 2,500 cases where I didn't get to first base and wondered why. I would debate the book publicly."

The work is divided into three parts: The White Man and the Negro; A Comparative Sociology; Personality Studies, and Negro Adaptation: A Psychodynamic Analysis.

In explaining the purpose of the 306-page book, the authors said in part:

"This book is conceived and written as an inquiry, not as a polemic. It is conceived and written on the premise that group characteristics are adaptive in nature and therefore not inborn, but acquired.

"A great mass of published material drawn from a wide variety of cultures amply substantiates this premise. The material in the book is arranged in a sequence that supports this thesis.

"The conclusions flow from the weight of evidence. Hence, the book does not describe Negro racial characteristics; it describes the personality he acquired while being obliged to adapt to extremely difficult social conditions."

BOOK COLUMN WITH A DIFFERENT SLANT

A unique book column made its debut some time ago in Beloit, Wisconsin entitled "There Is A Book," the column suggests books on any subject requested by the reader. In this respect, it is not a review column in the sense that it primarily reviews books. Here is an example of how the column operates:

A person interested in a particular subject will write the column for books on that subject. The column will then recommend certain books along with a review of the highlights of the book.

For example, if a person is interested in some craft, the column will suggest the books available on that particular craft; if a person is confined to bed for a long time, the column will suggest books to

relax the patient and help bring about a healthy mental attitude on the part of the patient.

The column has great possibilities. However, this reviewer has always tried to both conduct a general review column and recommend various books for specific purposes. Moreover, during the past year, books have been reviewed on just about every subject—the crafts, the arts, etc.

FRANK YERBY IS AMERICA'S MOST POPULAR AUTHOR

Frank Yerby is the most popular author in America. That is the conclusion reached on the basis of an audit by Alice Payne Hackett and an accounting rendered in "Seven Years of Best Sellers," by R. R. Bowker Co., a supplement to Miss Hackett's "Fifty Years of Best Sellers: 1895-45." The supplement covered the years 1945-51.

Yerby not only had two books included on this latest list, but during the seven year period he was represented on the list six times—which was something of a record.

His two books which were included among the top sellers for the period were "The Foxes of Harrow" and "The Golden Hawk."

MEN OF POPULAR MUSIC, BY DAVID EWEN, PUBLISHED BY PRENTICE HALL, INC., NEW YORK, 20 pp

The Spanish - American War showed Americans that as a nation they had grown up. With this realization the U S A began to throw off the shackles of foreign influence.

One area in which Americans was in the realm of music. For centuries the native American musician adhered rigidly to the established forms of European melody and composition.

However, shortly after the war with Spain, American musicians began experimenting with forms of music, in order to better express their own native temperament.

This experiment had its origin in New Orleans, La., later spread to Chicago and still later to New York.

New Orleans was perhaps best suited for a rebellion of this sort for it was a city of rebellious and transient persons. But most of all it had among its residents many Negroes who had migrated there to get jobs in the many brothel houses.

The Negroes brought with them a love for music which had been cultivated during their years as slaves. As slaves they were forever improvising new melodies.

In New Orleans their musical

David Ewen, considered them not representative of the various contributions made to our present day popular music.

Others in the book are: Armstrong, Irving Berlin, W. C. Handy, Meade Lux Lewis, Duke Ellington, Paul Whiteman, Forde Grofe, George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Rodgers and Hart, Cole Porter, Benny Goodman, Ray Charles, and Scott Joplin. Many will probably disagree with the inclusion of some of the persons included in this book. However, the author carried this form of music—ragtime. Men of Popular Music is the story of the evolution of our present day popular music from ragtime to jazz and eventually to boogie-woogie. A brief sketch of the men most responsible for the development of this new music is included in this book. Among them is King Oliver, perhaps the foremost exponent of ragtime, who carried this form

Spelman Honor Grad Writes For Two Top Magazines

ATLANTA, Ga. — (SNS) — Eva Neal Rutland, former Atlantan, honor graduate of Spelman College and now mother and housewife of Zenia, Ohio, has written two interesting and thought provoking articles on racial and religious problems of young Negro children for two national monthly magazines.

The June issue of "Redbook" features "Elsie and God" an article in which Mrs. Rutland relates the touching faith of her little five-year-old daughter who has the solution to problems that bother adults. In Elsie's five short years she has discovered that God loves and blesses all people.

This article is illustrated with several pictures, a very lovely one of Elsie and her mother in color occupying a full page.

"Taught to Hate" is the title of the special feature by Mrs. Rutland in the June issue of Ladies' Home Journal. This article shares page eleven with another of the Journal's special features "On Loyalty" by Dorothy Thompson.

Again the young writer gets her inspiration for this article from her children, Elsie and two-year-old Billy. She deplors the inferior Negro school and blames their existence on segregation. She sees the situation equally unhealthy for whites and Negroes.

Mrs. Rutland, is the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Neal, Sr., of 249 Crumley Street, S. W.

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The Night Thorn" by Ian Gordon is a story with an over-supply of ironic twists. A prejudiced white Texan falls in love with a beautiful colored girl who is passing in New York; he gradually seeks out Negroes in Harlem as friends harking back to his childhood days. She resents the type of friends he makes; he becomes more Negro, she more white in

her thinking. Add to this a strong admixture of sex and violence and you have "The Night Thorn."

The author started out to show that the individual has the right to determine his own destiny and that race barriers are false. But his characters for the most part are not normal people. Bobby Deering, the Texan, isn't just a white Southerner, he was a neglected boy reared on fear of a moronic father and disciplined to a surface conformity by a harsh headmaster in a military school. Shirley, one of the other characters, is a nymphomaniac, Willie, the Negro nightclub owner, is an almost unbelievably sweet character. Mimsey Howard, the girl who passes, is inconsistent and her "reversion to form" at the end of the book was unnecessary and unbelievable.

Mr. Gordon writes well; his prose is at times dramatic and always concise with no wasted words. The details of his writing are excellent, it is the conception that got out of hand.

The incidents of Negroes being beaten up in Greenwich Village are like those which actually happened a few years ago. I don't know if the motivation for these attacks was at all like what the author has here. On the whole, "The Night Thorn" suffers from an excess of violence, sex, and ironic contrasts. The last chapter is little more than a pointing of the moral and might easily have been omitted.

"The Night Thorn" by Ian Gordon; Dial Press; 461 Fourth ave.; New York City; 1952; \$3.00.

Ellison Writes for Partisan Review.

Ralph Ellison, author of "The Invisible Man" is one of the outstanding writers who has contributed an article to the symposium on the state of letters today in the May-June issue of Partisan Review.

Incidentally, this reviewer was in the minority in reporting on "The Invisible Man." Most critics hailed it as an outstanding contribution to today's literature. The concept of the Negro as an invisible man seemed to me excellent but the book as a whole was a disappointment. It is now

on the best seller lists.

New Paper Backs

The following are some of recent publications in the pocket book field; the Gold Medal books are original novels not reprints.

- "The Trouble Air" by Irwin Shaw—Signet Giant
- "There's One In Every Town" by James Aswell—Signet
- "Heredit, Race and Society" by L. C. Dunn and Th. Dobzhansky—Mentor
- "Pressure" by Charles Francis Coe — Signet
- "Walk On The Water" by Ralph Leveridge—Signet
- "Trapped" by Richard Hayward — Gold Medal
- "Don't Cry, Beloved" by Edward Ronns — Gold Medal
- "Savage Interlude" by Dan Cushman — Gold Medal
- "The Secret Rider" by Logan Stewart—Gold Medal
- "The Damned" by John D. MacDonald—Gold Medal



YOUNG WRITER WITH HANDSOME FAMILY—Mr. and Mrs. William Rutland, of Xenia, Ohio, pose with their children, twin daughter's Patty-Jo and Ginger, and Bill, Jr. and Elsie. Bill, Jr. and Elsie provided the inspiration for Mrs. Rutland's two articles appearing this month in the "Red Book" and the "Ladies' Home Journal."

Religious Bodies Listed Over 50,000 Members

NEW YORK — Six colored organizations are listed in a report of 70 largest religious bodies in the United States with 50,000 or more members by the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. The report was published in the Yearbook of American Churches by the Council.

The organizations and their memberships are reported as follows:

The National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., 4,467,779; the National Baptist Convention of America, 2,645,789; Church of God in Christ, 323,305; African Methodist Episcopal Church, 1,166,301; African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 728,150, and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, 329,167.

THE NUMBER of churches reported for each organization is as follows:

National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., 25,380; National Baptist Convention of America, 10,851; Church of God in Christ, 3,505; African Methodist Episcopal Church, 5,878; African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, 3,090, and the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church, 2,469.

LOOKS AT BOOKS

OPERATING THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

The escape of fugitive slaves into Ohio was a reason for the adoption of the Black Laws by the Legislature in January, 1804. These laws provided that anyone harboring or secreting such "objectionable intruders, or obstructing their owners in retaking them, should be fined from \$10 to \$50 for each offense, and that the claimant, on proving ownership of a slave before a magistrate within Ohio, would receive a warrant directing the sheriff or constable to arrest and deliver the runaway to the claimant. This is from Wilbur Henry Siebert's "The Mysteries of Ohio's Underground Railroads" (Long's College Book Co., \$5, Columbus, Ohio), which should find its way into all our public and school libraries as a valuable and authentic source of information.

As the reader can tell by the title, this book is concerned with incidents about runaway slaves. It gives many instances where the ones who were brave enough or smart enough found methods of escape, and Ohio was full of passages and operators who would hide, feed, disguise and direct them to their next point toward freedom. These operators took chances, a few were even caught and fined, but they did not believe in human bondage and they spent a great deal of time and money helping the escape of the fugitives.

It would be unfair to write a partial list of names of the operators and conductors in this business of escape when so many put forth such great effort in its success. Some of the names you may already know, but some of them are surely new, because Mr. Siebert has gone to a good deal of research via horse and buggy travel and questionnaires to bring us this material.

It is to be expected that there were those of both races who

spied and at every opportunity threw monkey wrenches into the set-up, but for the most part, this book is a credit to real people who harbored democratic principles in their hearts.

There are numerous examples of how the pursurers were outwitted, and of the clever tricks

ARCHANGEL

By LETTY M. SHAW

(A tribute to Mother)

Atop the throne, an image seen;
Robed in white;
My Angel Queen.

Soft as down, her skin of blond;
Of this being,
I am fond.

Scalp nourishes ripples, the
darkest hue;

Ponder, meditate long;
Have you a clue?

Organs of vision, miniature
in size;

Dark, resplendent;
Know ye the disguise?

Organs of scent, Nordic in
contour;
Characterized by intensity;
Allure! Allure! Allure!

Fleshy bow moistens the
pimiento berry;
Resembles the Dianthus,
Not the Cherry.

Slender projection is cervical
vertebrae;

Exquisite Cross;
"Now let us pray."

Shoulders portly, elegant
architectural lines;
Peerless engraving;
One rarely finds.

Hips are broad, quiet well built;
Distinguish her gait;
She has the proper tilt.

Legs moulded in perfect
measure;
Behold this creature;
Who is my treasure?

Pate the storehouse of extensive
knowledge;
Inclusion;

The home, the church, the
college.

With beauty extraordinary, she
does not lust;
Her creed of morals;
"In God I trust."

Who may this fair madame be?

Open your eyes;

It is Mother! See?

and methods of hiding the
slaves in homes, or out of doors
for that matter.

This seems to have been
known as "clandestine traffic,"
yet it seems we use the term
to imply evil intent. A desire
for freedom is far from
evil... It is only the inherent
right of every man.

GWENDOLYN WILLIAMS
Indianapolis, Ind.

NEW ORLEANS IN 1820

Benjamin Henry Boneval Latrobe was a civil engineer, linguist, architect, playwright and composer, as well as the leader of the Greek Revival movement in American art. He designed much of our capitol in Washington and the White House. Born in 1764 in England of an American mother and schooled in Germany, he came to the U. S. in 1796, where he built many beautiful residences in Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan. A forthright, brilliant, impulsive man, when his son died of the yellow fever in New Orleans, he went there to finish his son's architectural commission, dying there in 1821.

While there he kept a diary and drew many wonderful sketches of contemporary life in pencil, pen and ink. There are reproduced in color in a magnificently printed, large book entitled "Impressions Respecting New Orleans" (Columbia University Press, \$3.75) which is highly recommended. Here is told his opinion of the clashes between French, American and Creole culture, Negro music and dances, and the treatment of the slaves, which often left him indignant. He was outraged by the spectacle of lovely aristocratic la-

dies whipping or having their slaves whipped to death, and tells of the infamous "Black Code" which he found vicious and illogical but sometimes humane. Interesting enough, he discovered that the Americans treated their slaves better than the Creoles, who were often insanely cruel. There is much about the life and customs of the region, the balls and fine food.

GEORGE S. SCHUYLER.

HEREDITY RACE AND SOCIETY, by L. C. Dunn and Th. Dobzhansky (Mentor Books, 35 cents). A revised and enlarged edition of a work first published in 1946.

Teacher Receives Letter From English Queen

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — (ANP) — A public school teacher here, who wrote a poem to Queen Elizabeth of England, recently received a letter from the Queen thanking him for his tribute.

William Beatty, a teacher at Sumner high school, sent a copy of his 10-stanza poem to the new monarch. He received a letter from one of the Queen's Ladies-in-Waiting. The letter read:

"I write at the Queen's command to thank you for your letter, and for your very kind thought in enclosing a copy of the poem that you have written. 'Her Majesty deeply appreciated your message, and bids me Beatty's tribute in verse read in part:

"Elizabeth, behold thy name. And let Mountbatten be the same;

Ah may thy everlasting fame Embrace the skies;
And all the world in truth ac-

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Peace, War and You, by Jerome Davis. Henry Schuman, Inc., Publishers. 20 East 70th Street, New York 21, New York. 282 pp. \$3.00.

Jerome Davis, who is on no side save that of Peace, will win few friends with his new book, Peace, War and You. The book hits hard and every blow is on a tender target.

It hits at American policy, which only the politicians who are out of favor seem to question—and their questioning can hardly be thought of as in the interest of peace.

What Makes War

American policy, Dr. Davis

says, is dangerously promoting those very things which make war increasingly imminent: We are rearming at a terrific rate, and at the risk of dislocating our economy;

We are giving aid to other countries in proportion to their capacity and their willingness to rearm; We are pursuing a "stone age diplomacy" and "American monopoly" which has its share in creating the conditions which are now leading us down the road to World War III.

The book hits hard at individual persons. President Truman and Warren Austin (our chief delegate to the United Nations), according to Dr. Davis, have been guilty of foolishness which is sometimes inexcusable, and of misrepresentation of facts, which is always inexcusable.

An example of the foolishness is their declaration that America's lack of preparation brought on the second World War.

An example of misrepresentation of fact is their declaration that "we made the mistake of disarming unilaterally." Dr. Davis answers the foolishness in this way—

"Prior to the war (World War II) ... actually (our) War Department had more money than it could use, for in the year ending 1941, the War Department had \$1,817,000,000 appropriated by Congress for its use."

tophe and Thomas Clarkson, a Correspondence." It was a very fine review and your interest in the subject is deeply appreciated. Clifford Prator Foreign Student Advisor University of Calif.

Join a "Peace Organization." Help some foreigner abroad. Keep informed about the point of view opposite to whatever is dominant in America. Peace, War and You is a stop look and listen book informed with a spirit of angry altruism. It will get attention, and one hopes it will do the good it is meant to do.

Not Preventing War Too, the book will disturb the complacency of the American people by saying flatly that the American people are not doing all they can do to avert war and to wage a peace.

In this connection, Dr. Davis sets forth twelve hints on the way the individual American can wage peace. Examples: Read both sides. Thank you very much for your review of our book "Henry Chris-

LIKES REVIEW

Thank you very much for your review of our book "Henry Chris-

BOOK REVIEW

BY LOUISE SHOTWELL

Indians In Transition by G. E. Lindquist, Field Representative, the Division of Home Missions, National Council of Churches and Field Secretary of the Society for Propagating the Gospel among the Indians and others in North America. Published by National Council of Churches, 297 Fourth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. 177 pp. \$1.00

Every year the Protestant churches of the United States spend well over a million dollars in ministering to American Indians. More than 800 missionaries, about a quarter of them Indians, serve in churches, schools, hospitals, and community centers; on reservations and in rural areas, in villages and cities.

Fifteen of the denominations making up the National Council of Churches' Division of Home Missions are listed among the 36 denominational sponsors of 437 mission stations in 375 communities in 30 states.

Dates Back

Revealed in Dr. Lindquist's *Indians in Transition*, these figures point up a Christian concern for the Indian that dates back to the 17th century, when John Eliot, graduate of England's Cambridge University, preached to the Indians of New England in their own language, translated the Bible for them, converted hundreds to Christianity, and established 14 communities of Christian Indians.

Dr. Lindquist, stresses the unique place occupied in the Indian country by the church. Its emissaries have represented not war and bloodshed but peace.

It has pioneered in education and blazed new trails in the ministry of healing and mercy. It has worked to bridge racial and tribal barriers; to stabilize family life; to educate for law and order; to eliminate exploitation.

Yet *Indians in Transition* is factual and candid in pointing out where the church has fallen short and where its emphases need shifting.

Based on findings of the 1950 National Congress on Home Missions, its recommendations call for more interdenominational guidance to the denominations in their relationships with one another and in the allocation of funds.

They urge better orientation of missionaries to Indian culture; increasing use of qualified native leaders in responsible positions at salaries commensurate with those of white leaders; appointment of

Indian personnel in other than Indian fields. They question the validity of a costly program on a reservation that fails to train the Indian in what to expect of life in white communities and how to adapt himself to it.

The disastrous social and economic effects of increasing Indian migration from reservations to industrial centers come vividly to life in the chapter on Rapid City, South Dakota, prepared by Dr. Lindquist's associate in the study, Rev. E. Russell Carter.

The city church is cautioned that preaching alone will not lift the Creek to a respected place in the community. The situation calls for a cooperative program of personal visitation and recreation with guidance in home betterment, job-placement, health, child-care, civic responsibility.

It demands a realistic look at the Indian's economic problems, and annihilation of Indian stereotypes in the minds of white residents.

A pattern for other communities is being set in Rapid City by the Pennington County Council of Churches in cooperation with the Division of Home Missions. An ecumenical work camp of 14 young people has constructed a community building, which is serving as a center for the activities of an Indian pastor and his wife.

Comments on the future of Indian mission schools come from administrators of these schools. To a question as to the advisability of continuing such schools, some grassroots replies:

From the Dakotas: "For ten years, since it will take at least that long for any Federal Government program to guide the Indians into true citizenship; then we may see what sort of institution will best serve the people."

From the Southwest: "If the time comes when sufficient public schools will be provided for Navajo youth, our school might be turned into a Christian home for public school students."

From Wisconsin: "Children come mostly from insecure or broken homes. Many referred to us by social agencies. Under present policy need may continue indefinitely."

From Washington: "On the present basis it should not be continued. Plan to turn it into a community center."

Religious Work

Religious work in government boarding schools for Indians has been conducted interdenominationally since 1919. Newest and largest of the thirteen schools now served

by this Christian education ministry is the Intermountain School at Brigham City, Utah, offering vocational training to 2,000 boys and girls from the Navajo Reservation. Asked for their opinion as to the future of government Indian boarding schools, the religious work directors agreed that they should be continued only so long as they fill a need that public schools cannot meet.

Meantime this religious program supported by mission boards and World Day of Prayer offerings on the first Friday in Lent and cordially endorsed by the government Bureau of Indian Affairs, forms a vital part of the social and spiritual training of these Indian boys and girls.

Recognizing the present transitional state of the Indian, the study admonishes both church and government to help him overcome the sense of inadequacy and fear created in him by prolonged and specialized protection.

It recommends a definite goal of fifteen to twenty years for the ultimate release of Indians from federal wardship. It urges the church to give the Indian not only an understanding of its spirit and teaching but a responsible share in its life and work.

"It is high time to cease to think of the Indian as being different," Dr. Lindquist believes. "Our government and our churches owe him more because he is a human being than because he happens to be an Indian."

About Books

The Night Thorn, by Ian Gordan, Dial Press, New York, \$3.00

DALLAS — The author delves cleverly into inter-racial associations in New York, giving word they follow the characters through descriptions that make one feel the various situations.

Bobby, a white Southerner pampered in his youth and physically immature, gains self-respect by associating with Negroes and strives to compensate for his early mistreatments by going overboard for their cause.

The scenes shift from the south, where a great-grandfather lays the foundation for unbalanced life, and a Southern Military school, to New York, a broker's office, Harlem, a speak-easy and Long Island. The authors find that the inhabitants all have some thing in common and at the expense of nearly he gets them together.

Mindy, the main character, develops a revolting hate through her determination to retain the acquired racial status and to steer clear of circumstances that brought suffering to her people.

Bobby over estimates his ability to tangle with the race problem



Mrs. Graygrass at home on Rapid Creek. Some ten per cent of the population of Rapid City, S. D., are Indians who have come from the Reservation to work in industry. Many of them, like Mrs. Graygrass, retain Reservation ways, finding difficulty in fitting into white community life.

and the underworld. There is easy reading where characters are presented without inhibitions.

NOTED AUTHOR HONORED BY MONTGOMERY CLUB

Montgomery, Ala. — Miss Mary Elizabeth Vroman, noted Montgomery author and winner of the Christopher Award, was honored recently at a tea by the Ten Times One Is Ten Club, headed by Mrs. Willease Simpson.

The club which sponsored the tea is a pioneer civic organization of the city, having been in continuous existence since 1888. Since that time, it has distinguished itself in community leadership, including a recent citywide beautification program.

The social affair, held July 13 at the Community House, was featured by a presentation of a leather clipping folder to Miss Vroman. The presentation was made in behalf of the club by Mrs. I. C. H. Champney. In accepting the gift Miss Vroman asked the prayers of her friends that she might attain her goals in the field of literature.

Later in the week the honoree sent a basket of flowers to the club. The flowers were then presented to the club founder, Mrs. Laura Paige, by the club president, Mrs. Simpson.

Miss Vroman, author of two stories published in 1951 in the "Ladies' Home Journal," received one of the Christopher Awards in

a Hollywood presentation. She will serve as technical adviser during the fall filming, by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, of her story, "See How They Run."

The young author is the first Negro woman to be elected to membership in the Screen Writers Guild.

Miss Vroman, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cunningham of Montgomery, was graduated with honors from Alabama State College and has taught in several Alabama school systems.

Persons who appeared on the program of the tea include Miss Althea Thompson, Miss Estella Mathews, Bertram Martin, Miss Agnes Jette, Mrs. Evelyn Taylor, Charles Anderson, Miss Jessica Pettus, Miss Maxine Jackson, Mrs. Mildred Saffold Banks, Mrs. Ruth Adams, Mrs. Marian Hatch, Miss Yvonne Pettus, Cleveland Dennard, J. T. Brooks, David Stott, Mrs. Mildred G. Hall, Mrs. Andrew Goldsmith, Mrs. Altona T. Johns, Mrs. Belle Dennard, Mrs. June Olivari, and Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson.

Members of the club, in addition to the president, Mrs. Willease Simpson, are as follows:

Mrs. R. T. Adair, Mrs. Nanina C. Alba, Mrs. James Alexander,

Mrs. William E. Anderson, Mrs. L. Lowe, Mrs. Jerone Morris, Miss A. W. West, Mrs. Don Wilborn, Joseph T. Brooks, Mrs. A. C. Tessie M. Oliver, Mrs. William D. Morris, Mrs. Morris Williams, Mrs. J. R. Brown, Mrs. R. W. Brown, Mrs. O. Pettus, Mrs. J. H. Phillips, Mrs. Wingfield, Mrs. Hosea Wright, and L. Campbell, Mrs. I. C. H. Champ-Lovie M. Rainbow, Mrs. W. J. Rey-Mrs. T. H. Randall, Honorary ney, and Mrs. Andrew Goldsmith, Mrs. Nell B. Stafford, Mrs. Member.

Other members of the club are Charles Sterrs, and Mrs. Walter A. Mrs. G. C. Hamilton, Mrs. J. Gar-Vines. Mrs. Rick Hardy, Mrs. Camilla Hester. The remaining members of the Mrs. Emma P. Howard, Mrs. Fred club are Mrs. L. C. Walker, Mrs.

Books Published Today

AFRICA: New Crises in the Making, by Harold R. Isaacs and Emory Ross (Foreign Policy Association, 35 cents). A booklet in the New Headline Series.

BATTLE REPORT: The War in Korea, prepared from official sources by Capt. Walter Farig, U. S. N. R.; Comdr. Malcolm W. Cagle, U. S. N., and Lieut. Comdr. Frank Manson, U. S. N. (Rinehart, \$6). Volume VI in a history of the Navy in World War II.

DEATH GOES TO A REUNION, by Kathleen Moore Knight (Doubleday, \$2.50). Crime Club detective story.

EMERSON'S ANGLE OF VISION: Man and Nature in American Experience, by Sherman Paul (Harvard University, \$4.50). A study.

FIRST POEMS, by Ogden Plumb (Williams, Frederick, \$1, paper).

FREEDOM AND HISTORY: The Semantics of Philosophical Controversies and Ideological Conflicts, by Richard McKeon (Noonday Press, \$2.50).

HANDICRAFT HOBBIES FOR PROFIT, by Robert Scharff (McGraw-Hill, \$4).

HOME GARDEN BOOK OF HERBS AND SPICES, by Milo Miloradovich (Doubleday, \$2.95). A handbook on growing, preparing and preserving culinary herbs and spices.

HOW TO MAKE MONEY WITH YOUR CAMERA, by Harrison Forman, foreword by Ivan Dmitri (McGraw-Hill, \$3.50).

JOURNEY IN THE SUN, by Dane Chandos (Doubleday, \$3). An informal tour of Spain and Portugal.

JOURNEY WITH STRANGERS, by R. C. Hutchinson (Rinehart, \$4). A novel about a patriotic clan of high Polish officers in the recent war.

MARRIAGE: The Art of Lasting Love, by David R. Mace (Doubleday, \$2.75). Advice on how to enrich your marriage.

NAPOLEON AT ST. HELENA: The Journals of General Bertrand, January-May, 1821, deciphered and annotated by Paul Fleuriot de Langle, translated from the French by Frances Hume (Doubleday, \$3.75). Reviewed today.

OUT OF THE WHIRLWIND, by Audrey Erskine Lindop (Appleton-Century-Crofts, \$3.50). A novel about a scheming and arrogant woman.

PRAYERS OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE for Private and Public Worship, by John Underwood Stephens (Oxford University, \$2.75).

PUBLIC RELATIONS, by Edward L. Bernays (University of Okla-

homa, \$5). An explanation to the underlying philosophy of public relations.

SEVEN CAESARS' RANSOMS: A Dramatic Poem in 3 Acts, by Munro MacLennan (Exposition, \$3).

SHOWMANSHIP IN PUBLIC SPEAKING, by Edward J. Hegarty (McGraw-Hill, \$3.75). How to get your message across to your audience.

STANFORD SHORT STORIES, 1952, edited by Wallace Stegner and Richard Scowcroft (Stanford University, \$3). A volume of stories written by students at the Stanford Creative Writing Center.

THE BRUTE, by Guy des Cars (Greenberg, \$3). A novel of suspense.

THE CLOCK THAT WOULDN'T STOP, by E. X. Ferrars (Doubleday, \$2.50). Crime Club detective story.

THE GALLOPING GHOST, by William Colt MacDonald (Doubleday, \$2.50). Western novel.

THE HOODS, by Harry Grey (Crown, \$3). Novel about gangster life.

THE HOUSE OF SHANAHAN, by Roger B. Dooley (Doubleday, \$3). Novel about Irish family life.

THE LONG MEMORY, by Howard Clewes (Doubleday, \$2.75). Novel of suspense.

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

In the past, there have often been criticisms of Pulitzer Prize selections. This year, however, there can be little quarrel with the choice in history, "The Uprooted" by Oscar Handlin. The sub-title is "The epic story of the Great Migrations that made the American people." It is written with great simplicity and great feeling. In telling the story of the 5 million immigrants who contributed so much to America the author has let the reader see into the hearts and minds of these seekers of a better life.

First, Mr. Handlin shows the peasants at home in Europe living on the land but often only at subsistence level. Then, with the coming of the industrial age and especially with the great growth in population on the continent in the years from 1750-1850 many of them found themselves being pushed off the land. He discusses in detail the making of the momentous decision to leave the old and seek the new in America, then the perilous trip with all its delays and hazards. Once arrived in the new country the immigrant found his problems multiplied, often he never reached his original goal. Accustomed to the land, many never turned to farming but were caught in the urban maw trying to learn new ways and still plagued with poverty.

The same poverty and the differences in languages, names and customs set the newcomers apart from the native born Americans. After the Civil War with the rise of the Ku Klux Klan the immigrants, like the Negro, were the target of the intolerant. In turn, "the awareness of not being wanted stirred up the sentiments of offended pride into an inverted exclusiveness." Too often also the second generation did not understand the older and there was great friction between the two.

In closing Mr. Handlin writes: "But we cannot push away the heritage of having been once all strangers in the land; we cannot forget the experience of having been all rootless, adrift."

The author states in his "Acknowledgments" that he found his material "entirely in the writings of the immigrants and of sensitive observers who witnessed their adjustment at first hand." To this he contributed great understanding, a rich vocabulary and a smooth style which combine to make his book an outstanding one. One cannot read it without feeling a great sadness that men and women were made to suffer as these were in the search for a better place to live. They too often failed to realize the promise engraved on the tablet at the foot of the Statue of Liberty:

"Give me your tired, your poor
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free

The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

"The Uprooted" by Oscar Handlin; Little Brown and Company; 34 Beacon Street, Boston, Mass.: \$4.00

Henry Christophe and Thomas Clarkson, A Correspondence, edited by Earl Leslie Griggs and Clifford H. Prator. University of California Press, Berkeley, Cal., 287 pp. \$4.00.

What a complex man the "King of Haiti," Henry Christophe, was! Cruel tyrant and affectionate father; despotic ruler and loyal subject; murderous avenger and humble pleader.

Of heroic stature, as if fashioned for magnanimous deportment, he was a strutting and screaming peacock whose cavernous vanity must be fed on the food that only complete submission to his will provided.

Brutal when he should have been most humane, arrogant when he most needed a proper humility, he could yet be sincere in the hope that the new French government (following Napoleon's defeat) would be guided by "principles of moderation, justice and humanity."

Indubitably the savior of a country and a great cause, he was not philosopher enough to understand that the purpose of liberty is the enlargement of man and that the true power of kings reposes in the beneficent use of authority.

Yet Christophe was a great man. The complex character of Henry Christophe has resulted in the most arrant nonsense being written (and spoken) about him. He was not seven feet tall. He did not keep a harem. He did not sacrifice infants to strange, un-

seemly gods—or to any gods whatever.

The foundations of the Citadel Henry are not packed with the bones of the Frenchmen he slaughtered. Christophe has had the unhappy fate of falling into the hands of the romancers who, in the flaming, bloody history of Haiti, have seen only voodoo and have heard only the beat of tom-toms.

Beneath the legends lie the simple facts. Like Toussaint and Dessalines, Christophe was born in slavery.

He rose to power under the great L'Ouverture, who appointed him both military commandant of the North Province and a sort of Secretary of the Interior for the whole island.

Bit by bit, after the French invasion, Napoleon's deputy, LeClerc, ate away at Toussaint's strength and finally absorbed it. Promising more than he intended to fulfill, LeClerc won from Christophe a pledge of loyalty to the service of France.

When it became known that Toussaint was Napoleon's prisoner and the perfidy of the French was discovered, the savage Dessalines secured Haiti for the colored race but he proved so despotic an emperor that his own subjects fell upon and murdered him.

Christophe, commander-in-chief of the Army, became provisional head of the state. Soon after, he was king.

The editors of this volume of correspondence first clear up the history by giving us a straightforward and scholarly account of Haiti from 1492 to 1820.

But their main concern is with the letters, not all of which are those which passed between Christophe and Thomas Clarkson,

the English emancipationist who was the "King of Haiti's" friend and adviser. There are some letters to and from William Wilberforce, to and from Stewart Duncan, to and from Prince Saunders—the American colored father of colored masonry, and letters of Haitian officials to French and American officials. Because there is a paucity of archival material in Haiti concern-



Mr. Redding

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The Trouble Makers" is the anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith's new report on intolerance in the United States. It was written by Arnold Foster, general counsel of the League and Director of its Civil Rights Division, and Benjamin Epstein, National Director of the League.

Their book discusses in detail intolerance of the last few years, the most notorious examples of and some of the best-known purveyors of hate in this country. Since these individuals are often less known than their acts it is extremely worthwhile to have even a brief look at them.

The authors open their book with an examination of the vicious attempt to smear Mrs. Anna Rosenberg when she was appointed by the then Secretary of Defense Marshall as his Assistant. Men like Gerald L. K. Smith, Benjamin Freedman, Fulton Lewis, and, to a lesser extent Senator Joseph McCarthy and Congressman Rankin collaborated in this attempt to discredit an able and loyal citizen. Since this book went to press a similar attempt was made to smear Mrs. Mary McLeod Bethune when she was refused permission to speak in New Jersey on the grounds that she had been a member of subversive organizations.

Although most of the material in "The Trouble Makers" is familiar, the total impact is more startling than have been the isolated incidents. The Cicero riots, the Miami dynamitings which culminated in the murder of NAACP leader Harry Moore and his wife, anti-Semitism in Boston and elsewhere, in fact, the whole story recital of vicious and violent hate in a democracy should be sufficient to stir even the most placid into action.

As the authors point out, there is a network of hate throughout the country which is a very real threat to our achievement of a democratic way of life.

The manner in which the Communists use the Negro and capitalize on discrimination both here and abroad are also discussed here. The authors emphasize as did President Truman in a speech several weeks ago that disciples of hate and character assassins of the right or left are equally to be condemned.

"The Trouble Makers" provides a record of a period when the civil rights of many have been threatened. As such it is extremely valuable. The book closes on a note of hope as the authors refer to the large number of individuals and organizations attacking these problems today. They conclude: "Despite the last-ditch fight of troublemakers against progress, the democratic frontiers are being pushed forward in our country."

"The Trouble Makers" by Arnold Foster and Benjamin Epstein; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison Ave.; New York 22, N. Y.; 1952; \$3.50

"H Is For Heroin" This brief volume by David Hulburd is the story of a teen-age narcotic told in her own words. Mr. Hulburd also looks at what happens through the eyes of both the mother and father. In a scant 122 pages he is able to show a great deal about one girl, Amy Burton, the factors which caused her to turn to dope, and the life which dope addicts lead.

The Burton family lived in California near Los Angeles where the father was employed as a Certified Public Accountant. When the mother also took a job, Amy, then fifteen, was more or less on her own.

"H Is For Heroin" is an able job of reporting anyone concerned with the lives of young people should read it.

"H Is For Heroin" by David Hulburd; Doubleday; 575 Madison Ave.; New York City, 1952; \$1.75.

Alfred Elliott Writes Books With Ease By Inspiration

By THOMAS L. DABNEY

NORFOLK — Writing books is a tough job for the average author, but it's almost as easy as drinking a glass of water for Alfred Elliott. In the first place, he says he can write a book in about two months by spending a little time on days of leisure at the job.

Mr. Elliott is writing another book on "The Way From Earth to Heaven." He wrote a book some



ALFRED ELLIOTT

years ago on "Straight Way From Earth to Heaven." It contains 144 pages excluding a 20-page appendix. It has several illustrations depicting the lives of some of the outstanding personalities of the Old and New Testament.

The current manuscript which Mr. Elliott plans to publish some time this year, perhaps, is full of admonitions about right living and accepting the truths of the Bible. The author makes fervent pleas for a life guided by the Christian religion.

MR. ELLIOTT said this week "the words come to me faster than I can write. I don't have to think." Then Mr. Elliott, who is also known to old citizens of Norfolk as "Prophet Elliott," explained that he writes by inspiration just as Moses did.

Though Mr. Elliott has been writing for 52 years, he has also operated a market on Monticello

avenue near City Hall. He and George Ramsey, an old huckster, sold produce for a number of years at their old market stand.

Mr. Elliott for a time also operated a store on Virgin street at Riley. He retired from business Feb. 9, 1950.

MR. ELLIOTT didn't get much training in Princess Anne county where he was born March 15, 1876 nor in Norfolk which he made his home in later years. He told this reporter that he never studied higher than the third grade.

After that anyone would ask how can Prophet Elliott write a book. He does the work in the rough, and then gets some typist who can straighten out the loose ends and type the manuscript for the printer. Mr. Elliott's comment on this question is:

"Some people have the idea you can't get anywhere unless you know the letter." He added that "Jesus Christ had no training." He pointed out also that people learn much by contact with other people.

"BRETHERN, if we want peace, we must have peace in our hearts." and "Brethren, if you want to learn about God, you must abide in Him day and night; lay down with Him and get up with Him." These and other such expressions adorn the pages of his manuscript.

Mr. Elliott and his wife, Mrs. Lillian G. Elliott, live at 931 Virgin street, Norfolk. Mr. Elliott is a Baptist, he said, but he said he first joined Garretts Community Church under the late Rev. R. K. D. Garrett. He attends different churches, but usually goes to Sunday school at Antioch Baptist Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott have two sons, Alfred Jr., of Philadelphia, and Russell, of Norfolk.

Housing Research Is Issued By HHFA

WASHINGTON, D. C. — The Winter issue of Housing Research, a quarterly published by Division of Research, Housing and Home Finance Agency, focuses attention on housing problems related to the defense program. The issue just published is available from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., for thirty cents.

With the amount of critical materials available for housing construction severely limited, conservation has become a primary concern in the homebuilding industry and in housing research. The lead article in Housing Research, "Metal Saving Trends in Domestic Heating," points to methods through which substantial amounts of metal may be saved and cites successful application of such methods during World War II.

Changes in home financing and in the housing pattern under mortgage credit controls are analyzed in the article "Home Financing 1949-51—Changes Under Credit Controls." The study reviews changes that occurred under credit regulations and compares the financing pattern that emerged with that prevailing during the period just prior to those regulations.

"Regional Patterns of Material Used in New Houses" breaks down to regional levels results of a survey conducted on a national scale of materials used in house construction. This information is useful to material manufacturers, dealers and home builders, as well as to government officials concerned with materials requirements for housing during the emergency.

Other articles in the winter issue of Housing Research include "How Our Aged Families are Housed," "Lag in the Use of Residential Building Permits," "Prevention of Cold Weather Roof Leaks" and "Results of a Survey of Housing Research."

Cold weather roof leaks are a serious problem in many parts of northern United States, requiring maintenance and repair work that could be avoided and causing needless housing expense. A major purpose of housing research is to reduce housing costs to the American people.

African Writes Book On Native Communication

BY CARTER JEWEL

GREENSBORO, N. C.—(ANP)—The world's first book revealing the secrets of the ancient African systems of communications will be published in 12 months, it was disclosed here last week.

The author is Dr. Akiki K. Nyabongo, a graduate of Oxford University, London, and former teacher at A and T College. He was visiting the school for the Christmas holidays when he announced his forthcoming multi-lingual reference work on his native land.

The book, to be published by the Buffalo (N. Y.) Museum, will reveal secrets of how flowers, leaves, grass, seeds, twigs, clay, brads, stones and animal hair are used to transmit jungle messages, the author said.

Dr. Nyabongo, now a resident of Brooklyn, recently returned from a tour of Europe and Africa in search for data and specimens. He reported that white museums and libraries had no information on his project. He brought back approximately 1,000 pictures and samples from the field.

The book will assemble information handed down orally for thousands of years, he said. The data will be classified and described in English, Latin, German, French and in the tongues of Rutore or Rynyakitara.

Dr. Nyabongo is a native of the Kingdom of Toro in Uganda, East Africa. He grew up in a jungle Eden where the world's largest elephants are found.

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BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Origins of the New South, by C. Vann Woodward. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, La. 542 pp. \$6.50.

Origins of the New South, by C. Vann Woodward, is the ninth volume in a projected ten volume history of the South. To the three most distinguished volumes (Hammer's The Revolution in the South, 1763-1789; Sydnor's The Development of Southern Sectionalism, 1817-1848 and Coulter's The Confederate States of America, 1861-1865) so far published must be added Woodward's careful study.

It engages the period from 1877 to 1913—perhaps the most difficult in Southern history to analyze and interpret. There is a good deal of the drama of events and the theatrics of dynamic personalities, and these are a temptation for even the most careful historiographer.

But, unlike Claude Bowers and James Truslow Adams, Woodward refuses to be lured into merely dramatic narrative and colorful biography. He is after interpreting a social revolution.

It grew (this revolution) out of "the continuity between Reconstruction and Redemption." The buying of legislatures and governors and judges went on under the Redeemers as it had under the Radical Reconstructionists.

State subsidies, franchises, monopolies went to the same group who had used the excuse of Reconstruction to get them in the first place. The planters who had ruled the South until the Civil War and who, in the very meaning of the term, were the logical redeemers, were ignored by the new industrial middle class which, thanks to Northern capital, was in the saddle.

This was the group that determined the culture, the economy and the sociology upon which the "New South" was founded. From political impotence in 1865, the South rose to almost irrevocable political power by the time of the Presidency of Woodrow Wilson.



Mr. Redding

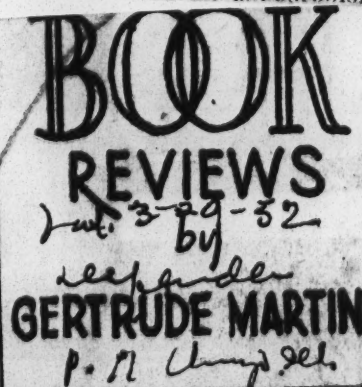
Booker T. Washington

In this revolution, the Southern colored man was a catalytic agent. But it was not until Booker Washington came along that he began to realize his role and to profit—if profit it can be called—from playing it. Booker Washingtonians are too well known to bear repeating, and Woodward does not repeat them.

But he is the first Southern historian to see their true importance and to interpret Washington in much the same way that DuBois did fifty years ago, and in the way that John Hope Franklin has recently interpreted him.

"The shortcomings of the Atlanta Compromise," Woodward writes, "... were the shortcomings of a philosophy that dealt with the present in terms of the past."

The fact remains that Washington's training school, and the many schools he inspired, taught crafts and attitudes more congenial to the machine age than to the twentieth century. That his labor doctrine was a compound of individualism, paternalism and anti-unionism in an age of collective labor action; and that his business philosophy was an anachronism.



Langston Hughes has a way of selecting apt and provocative titles for his books. His latest, "Laughing To Keep From Crying", is no exception. It is taken from the blues song that runs: "When you see me laughing, I'm laughing to keep from crying". The book itself is a collection of short stories, most of which are concerned with Negro-white relations. They have to do chiefly with the small, everyday events of living in the Negro world; there is little or no violence, but the hurt is there. Mr.

Hughes does not take himself nor his characters too seriously, but his oblique approach to prejudice and discrimination—with the exception of one story—is all the more effective.

"Trouble With The Angels" is the story in which Mr. Hughes makes a frontal attack on conditions as they are, and indulges in considerable moralizing. The result is that it has a preachy quality, which detracts from an incident which had great possibilities. The angels in this case are characters in a play which is unnamed, but is obviously "Green Pastures". The trouble arises when the play reaches Washington, where Negroes are not to be allowed to attend. Some of the angels protest, but "the Lord" pulls them in line with a tearful appeal, and the show goes on.

Few writers have the sympathy and understanding of the little man that Langston Hughes shows in all his writing. The character in "Why, You Reckon" is as real and as human as the professor in the story by that name. There is irony and gentle wit in most of these tales and a quiet telling, which adds to their effect. There is no pretension here. Some of the stories are not as impressive in style and character portrayal as others, but all have something to say. "Laughing To Keep From Crying" is another important step in Mr. Hughes' distinguished literary career.

"Laughing To Keep From Crying," by Langston Hughes: Henry Holt and Company, 383 Madison Avenue, New York 17, N. Y.; 1952; \$2.75

"The Bright Bright Water"

One of 1951's novels which we failed to mention here is "The Bright Bright Water" by William Case. It is another book about American expatriates. In this case they are living on the island of St. Lo, in the Caribbean, and their lives, like most of their fictional counterparts, revolve around sex, liquor, and the heat. Unlike some authors, Mr. Case does introduce several characters who revolt against the artificial life of the American colony with its subtle and often overt prejudice against the natives.

The kingpin of the American stereotypes for the most part, "The Bright Bright Water" by William Case, Appleton-Century, Inc.; 35 West 32nd st.; New York 1, N. Y.; 1951; \$3.00

Mr. Case is not very successful with his characters, who are

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING
Oaks of Eden, by Allen Pelzer Turner. Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Avenue, New York. 135 pp. \$3.00.

It was very considerate of Mr. Allen Pelzer Turner to condense his novel on the final page. I did not know I would find it there until, lo, there it was.

But, of course, you never know what you're going to find in Oaks of Eden until you find it, and by then you pretty much don't care a hoot, even if it should turn out to be gold, or something — which it never does.

But the glitter might fool you. Gosh, how it all glitters!

"In the midst of this overat-tentiveness to herself, her long-suffering husband comes home from work—not to complain, or whine, or scowl, but to accept things as he finds them. His greeting, as usual, is cordial and jovial; hers, more than usual, is effusive."

"But in spite of the fervor of her appeal, or the warmth of her smile, her regalia calls from her unemotional husband no comment which would faintly imply that he is even slightly impressed. "The idea never dawns upon him that Eppie speaks of herself when she paints the picture of a woman—a more

fascinating picture than he has ever seen—whose delightful presence has graced the precincts of the Fields (sic) household during the day—until it is too late. Nor do his unobservant eyes see in his own wife the 'beauty, grace, and charm' which she so painstakingly strives to show.

"Of course, her reaction to this oversight exacts from him a prompt apology reinforced by a warm embrace, which checks but fails to prevent the falling of a stream of disappointed tears."

More Too

There is more like this. There is a whole book of it—a lot of saying rather than showing. "The situation is compact with dramatic moments and gathers momentum as the scene progresses."

A lot of conversation, but no dialogue: "At the very moment when Sylvan is on the verge of defying his father's order not to leave the house, the chattering Mrs. Fields enters, plants a facetious (that's what the man said, facetious) kiss on the cheek of her

son, and then on her husband, who immediately leaves the room, giving rise to her comment upon his departure."

Mr. Turner would have done all of us a service had he been content to print only the last paragraph of his novel.

"So is life at Eden, the snug little town behind the hills, where the determined Billy Tate died at

the feet of the girl who spurned his love for another; where the petulant Sylvan Fields slew his rival for the love of Stella Wingate and was slain in the Eden courtroom by the victim's mother; Where Mrs. Tate took her own life at the grave of her murdered son; where the dynamic Stella Wingate dared the mother of her sweetheart to violate the privacy of her home; where the irresistible Mabel Orr wrapped her personality around one like the aroma of some exotic perfume;

Leaves Friend For Law

"Where the fleetfooted Jud Wilbur left his best friend in the clutches of the law, charged with murder; where a fair-minded judge refused to be influenced by a group of busybodies who sought to evict an innocent girl from her own home for the 'crime' of simply living alone; where Eppie Fields spent more time away than home, giving rise to the basic problem of this story—letting the child get out of hand;

Last, Not Least

"And finally, where the diligent Miss LeBon who, never too tired to follow up the children whom she taught, wore bouquets of thorns rather than roses for her arduous toil and, finally discouraged, sought and found employment in a distant city—to the regret of the decent, forward-looking people of a growing community."

None of this really happens, you understand. Mr. Turner tells us it does, but that doesn't make it so.



Mr. Redding

Korea Report Lifts Secrecy Lid

Reviewed by John G. Norris

BATTLE REPORT: The War in Korea. By Capt. Walter Karig, USNR; Comdr. Malcolm Cagle, USN, and Lieut. Comdr. Frank A. Manson, USN. Rinehart. \$6.

WALTER KARIG, senior member of the Navy team writing the Battle Report series and one-time tonight newsman, must have gotten a nostalgic kick out of this latest volume. For it is full of "scoops"—heretofore unreported incidents and angles of the Korean fighting.

Told here for the first time is an amazing story of Navy cut. Gene Clark, who spent weeks before the Inchon invasion within the enemy lines, sending out detailed reports on gun emplacements, "soft spots" and channel depths. With the aid of friendly Koreans, he fought off repeated attempts at capture and ended up by lighting the lamp in Inchon's darkened lighthouse to lead in the U. N. invasion fleet and then boarding the flagship in a junk.

Later, Clark pulled a similar stranger-than-fiction mission into the mouth of Yalu just before the Chinese invasion. Battle Report Vol. VI suggests that his efforts were known and that Chinese, fearing he was a forerunner of another U. N. amphibious landing, delayed their attack on Gen. Walker's army.

HERETOFORE bottled up by naval security, the Clark saga is only one of several fast-told tales. Reproduced for posterity is a five-page version of "Bless-em-all," said to have been sung by the Marines on their flight from the Chosen Reservoir to the sea. It expresses some very unflattering sentiments about the American high command, the United Nations, the Army, Navy and Air Force.

There is also a moving account of the Marine rescue of an Army convoy of wounded left to the mercies of the Chinese and zero weather, that is certain not to improve inter-service relations. A description of the sad state of the Chinese Nationalist navy in mid-1950

will not make friends in other quarters.

For the most part, however, the book is a straightforward, factual report on the Korean fighting, from the beginning until the Chinese invasion and the evacuation from Hungnam.

KARIG, Cagle and Manson, aided by Navy Yeomen Joseph J. Vettese and Samuel A. Tish, gathered much of the material in on-the-spot observations and interviews. Told in newspaper style, with lavish direct quotations from the men who took part in or planned the Navy and Marine Corps operations, Battle Report is very readable, often exciting and sometimes moving.

There are a few typographical errors, but the book, with its appendices, is a "must" for the library of anyone interested in the Korean war. It is the story of the naval phases of the campaign, complete with casualty lists, decoration awards, maps, scores of action photographs and the task force composition for each operation, including ships' captains' names. True to its newspaper style, it is packed with names.

It also should be a "must" for the intelligence personnel of the armed forces. Time after time, one reads of operations in South Korea being planned with inaccurate maps and only sketchy data on the terrain and harbors. And this in a country we had occupied for several years.

Chief disappointment in the book is the almost total lack of any evaluation of events or any treatment of the pros and cons of such controversies as that over the relative merits of Marine and Air Force close support aviation. But this follows the formula of the whole series. The Battle Reporters—naval officers on active duty and thus under some wraps—tell their story and tell it well, but leave the editorial comment to others.

Kas. Born Author Traces History of Negro Vote

The growth in the political importance of the American Negro has for some time been keenly recognized by politicians. Now Dr. Elbert Lee Tatum has re-

searched hard and long about the Negro vote, and written THE CHANGED POLITICAL THOUGHT OF THE NEGRO, 1915-1940. (Exposition Press, New York—\$3.00).

For a long time, the Republican Party could depend on a solid Negro bloc. However, as more and more Negroes began to move to the North, their viewpoints expanded. The conviction came to many that the Republican Party was indifferent to their basic needs. And thus, the first stirrings of political revolt began.

The presidential campaign of 1928, Al Smith vs. Hoover, brought the Negro into open revolt against the Republican Party. At first, Hoover received some support because of old loyalties, but it was not long before the policies of the Republicans succeeded in alienating the Negro vote.

Under FDR and the New Deal, when the Negro began to be considered in terms of his real economic and political needs, the break with Republicanism became complete.

Dr. Tatum has documented his book with quotations, tables and statistics. The appendices contain a number of interesting letters explaining the personal stands of several individuals on political issues.

The author was born in Topeka, Kansas, and attended Howard University and the University of Illinois, where he received his M.A. degree. Following this, he studied at the University of Chicago. In 1946, he received his Ph.D. degree from Loyola University.

He has been an educational advisor for an Illinois CCC camp, dean of men at Langston University, and has taught at Morgan State College, Wiley University, and Stowe Teachers College. He is at present professor of political science and history at the Agricultural, Mechanical and Normal College, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Lincoln Biographer To Open Book Review Series

Dr. Louis A. Warren of Fort Wayne, Indiana, author of numerous Abraham Lincoln books, will open the spring book review series at Atlanta University at 7:30 p. m., on Monday, March 3, in the Exhibition Room of the Trevor Arnett Library. His subject will be "Books About Abraham Lincoln."

Dr. Warren's Fort Wayne library has become the center of Lincoln information in America. Lincoln books he has authored include "Lincoln's Parentage and Childhood," "Slavery Atmosphere of Lincoln's Youth," "Little Known Lincoln Episodes," "Abraham Lincoln, a Concise Biography" and "Indiana's Contribution to Abraham Lincoln."

Educated at Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky, and at Lincoln Memorial University, Dr. Warren has served as director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

Two other book reviews will be presented in the spring series which is sponsored by the School of Library Service. On Tuesday, chairman of the department of April 15, Dr. Melvin D. Kennedy, history at Morehouse College, will discuss "This American People" by Gerald W. Johnson and "Living Ideas in America" by Harry Steele Commager, two brilliantly conceived volumes published in commemoration of the 175th anniversary of the American Library Association.

The series will be concluded on Tuesday, May 6, with a review of the Nobel Prize novel, "Barabbas" by Par Fabian Lagerkuist. This outstanding philosophical novel is a character study of the man, thief and murderer, who was released to the mob instead of Christ. The review will be by S. W. Williams, professor of philosophy at Morehouse College.

The book review program at Atlanta University is open to all friends of this institution free of charge.

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The series will be concluded on Tuesday, May 6, with a review of the Nobel Prize novel, "Barabbas" by Par Fabian Lagerkuist. This outstanding philosophical novel is a character study of the man, thief and murderer, who was released to the mob instead of Christ. The reviewer will be S. W. Williams, professor of philosophy at Morehouse College.

The book review programs at Atlanta University are open to all friends of this institution free of admission charge.



FEATURED SPEAKER—next Friday night, Mar. 7, at Occidental college on the Melville Centenary Celebration will be British West Indian author and critic, C. L. R. James, rapidly becoming recognized as an authority on the author of "Moby Dick" and other literary classics.

James lectures on the "Prophetic Riddle of Herman Melville" and claims to see in the sea stories of the American writer 19th century revelations of the world state and the prototypes of such 20th century phenomenon as Hitler and Stalin.

"Melville," James points out, "lived in a time of great crisis prior to the Civil War. He described characters and types of behaviour characteristic of a period of turmoil. These disappeared for two generations after the Civil War only to reappear with the stress of World War I and since. As the crisis grows, so does the interest in this great writer."

The lecture is public.

Honored At Dinner For Writing Story

By HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD, Calif. (ANP)—Because her name was merely listed among the 15 writers, composers, producers, and directors, who had awards and cash prizes in the famous annual contest held by the Christopher, and no mention made of her nationality, the general public did not know in advance that Miss Mary Elizabeth Vroman is a colored girl.

Hence when a pretty, shapely, stylishly, but modestly attired brownskin young lady, rose at the call of the radio announcer, from her seat on the rostrum of the Beverly Hills Crystal room, it was a genuine surprise. A pleased murmur of excitement ran among the several hundred diners, which included some of the most celebrated stars and figures in the world. The few colored guests present thrilled with pride as prolonged applause rang out for her.

She had won a bronze trophy, and \$2,000 in cash for a story she had written which appeared in the June, 1951 issue of the Ladies' Home Journal. In her brief speech of acceptance, she expressed in soft, well-modulated tones how deeply grateful she was for the award, and the encouragement it gave her to continue to do her best.

Both before and after the presentation from the rostrum, reporters, columnists, and photographers gathered around her, but she remained smiling, and well-poised through it all.

Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Somerville, at whose Sugar Hill mansion she was guest during her sojourn here were guests at the dinner, and they too were photographed.

Besides my lovely companion Miss Shantez Forson, other colored guests present were Courier columnist Joe Harris, and company and photographer Tab Simpkins, who shot scenes both for the Courier and ANP.

Miss Vroman was born in Buffalo, N. Y., November, 1923, only child of an Alabamian father and a British West Indian mother.

Redding, Taylor Edit English Text

HAMPTON—Co-authors and editors of a new textbook in English composition, "Reading for Writing," are J. Saunders Redding, professor of English at Hampton Institute, and Ivan E. Taylor, head of the Department of English at Howard University.

The text, published last week by the Ronald Press Publishing Co., will be used in freshman and sophomore composition classes at Howard and at other universities next fall.

The 424-page book of readings and composition exercises contains selections from authors as varied in their contributions as Erasmus, Thomas Huxley and James Thurber. Its three main sections are literary, historical and sociological in their emphasis.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

"Day With the Giants" is Mrs. Leo Durocher's contribution to the annual spurt of baseball literature. Mrs. Durocher, the former Laraine Day of Hollywood, has retired from the screen to be a full time baseball wife. She relates her experiences in a simple, straightforward style and provides interesting sketches of a number of baseball figures, past and present.

Life with Leo Durocher has turned Laraine Day from complete indifference to baseball to the most rabid enthusiasm for the game. Their marriage has found the Giants' explosive manager in a number of difficult situations. They include his suspension by Commissioner Chandler, the introduction of Jackie Robinson into the major leagues when Durocher was managing the Dodgers and the sudden shift from managing the Dodgers to the Giants. This last was perhaps the

most difficult of all since the Giants and Dodgers are traditional enemies and the new manager had to prove himself all the way before he was accepted at the Polo Grounds.

Miss Day's comments on these changes, on what it means to be a baseball wife, on different baseball personalities and customs are sprightly and interesting. She even reveals what is said when the catcher walks out to the pitcher's mound; on at least one occasion the subject under earnest discussion was the dinner menu.

In addition to her domestic duties Miss Day has her television show which is seen before the telecast of the Giant games in New York. Her thumbnail sketches of the baseball greats who have appeared on her show are to the point and often amusing. Her favorite performer is Chuck Connors of the Gubs; Andy Seminick is "reserved and sincere," Roy Campanella can't be beat for "sheer charm," Eddie Stanky is an "excellent speaker" and Willie Mays "wins the hearts of everybody." She gives Mays a great deal of credit also for keeping the Giants relaxed last year during their tremendous drive to the pennant.

Baseball fans won't want to miss "Day With the Giants" and even the uninitiated may like to learn more about the care and feeding of baseball players.

"Day With the Giants" by Laraine Day; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison Avenue; New York City; 1952; \$2.75.

"Ladycake Farm"

This is a warm book for young people about a Negro family: father, mother, and three children who move to a farm in a new community and meet all their problems there with flying colors. Its author is Mabel Leigh Hunt who has a long list of juvenile titles to her credit and this latest is one that children will certainly enjoy.

When the Freeds move house and all to their new farm they know that one neighbor is opposed to the coming of Negroes next door to him. At first at school the children find a certain coolness but the friendly help of the principal and the encouragement of their parents help them weather the difficult days. Before the book ends the eldest child, Joe, has

won a prize from the American Legion with his essay; the two girls are well accepted, and the farm is prospering.

Mrs. Hunt writes with great understanding of a Negro's family adjustments. The Freeds are brave and ambitious and their deep regard for each other is well drawn. The author makes them all very real and I am sure young readers will follow their experiences with great concern and interest.

"Ladycake Farm" by Mabel Leigh Hunt; J. B. Lippincott Company; East Washington Square; Philadelphia, Pa.; 1952; \$2.25.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Alain Locke in a thought-provoking article in the current Phylon entitled "The High Price of Literature: A Review of the Literature of the Negro for 1951" makes a number of interesting points on the general state of the literature of the Negro. Dr. Locke states "The high cost of prejudice to which we had all but become accustomed, is now being compounded by the high price of integration."

Frank Yerby is exhibit A in this discussion of the integration of the Negro writer in the field of general literature. To him Dr. Locke writes: "Granted that there is no obligation on Mr. Yerby's part to touch the relatively rich and untapped resources of the Negro theme in the historical field, the tragic dilemma remains that in turning to such subject materials he could not possibly persist in being as slickly superficial as in 'The Golden Hawk' and 'A Woman Called Fancy.' A number of Mr. Yerby's earlier short stories on Negro themes certainly support this contention.

With only a few minor exceptions I agree with Dr. Locke's well-written appraisal of the output of 1951. He is more enthusiastic about 'Ethel Waters' 'His Eye Is On the Sparrow' and less

pleased with Arna Bontemps' 'Chariot In the Sky' than reviews here were.

Incidentally, Dr. Locke's short reviews in his article are far superior in most instances to the longer reviews contained in the regular review section of Phylon. A Bantam Ethel Waters

Speaking of Ethel Waters' autobiography, 'His Eye Is On the Sparrow' reminds me that the full page ad in the Saturday Review of Literature announcing its appearance in a 25 cent Bantam edition is the first I have seen of that size for a reprint. An attractive photograph of Miss Waters also appears in the ad.

"New World Writing"

An important development in the reprint field has come with the publication of "New World Writing" by the New American Library, publishers of Signet and Mentor books. It is designed to bring to the low-price field "an important cross-section of current literature and criticism" and is described by its publisher as a "cross between a 'little magazine' and a book."

This first issue contains articles, short stories, plays or criticism by Tennessee Williams, Thomas Merton, Shelby Foote, James Laughlin, Gori Vidal, Alain Locke, and Christopher Isherwood among others. Dr. Locke's article here is called "The Negro In American Literature" and it will appear in slightly different form as a chapter in his forthcoming book "The Negro In American Culture." In it the author traces the history of the literature of the Negro. It is interesting and informative except that his appraisal of William Faulkner's writing as showing "unorthodox integrity" in the treatment of the Negro is not accurate in my opinion.

At 50 cents "New World Writing" is a bargain and represents another feather in the New American Library's cap.

"New World Writing" published by The New American Library; 501 Madison Ave.; New York 22, N. Y.; 1952; 50c

Press Publishes Book By Mississippian

ALCORN, Miss. Wendell Howard, of Fayette has just had published by Exposition Press, Inc. a volume of short stories called "The Last Refuge Of A

Scoundrel." The author, born 60 years ago in Fayette, attended Alcorn A. and M. college. He and his wife now live in Chicago.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Frank Yerby, who is described on the jacket of his new book, "The Saracen Blade" as "probably America's most widely read novelist" has come up again with a book destined for the best seller lists. In fact, Mr. Yerby has mastered the technique of the historical novel to such an extent that it would be news if his book did not sell at least a million copies. To date his previous six novels have sold 8 million copies here and around the world.

"The Saracen Blade" is the story of Pietro di Donato, son of a serf, who early made a name and place for himself in the rank of the nobility. His knighting at the hands of the King of France and later of the Emperor Frederick was actually anti-climatic.

Born at the same hour as Frederick the Second of Hohenstaufen, Holy Roman Emperor, Pietro rose through the aid of powerful and wealthy protectors. The first of these was Isaac, the Jew, who was responsible for the training of his quick mind. So in a day when physical prowess was the sine qua non of the successful man, Pietro with a small body was able to make his way through his intelligence and his loyalty to his friends. The accident of his birth drew Frederick the Emperor to him since that superstitious ruler believed their lives would follow the same pattern.

Mr. Yerby has done an impressive job of research for his novel. The time is the thirteenth century and the scene shifts from Sicily where Pietro was born, to Italy, Germany, France, Egypt and the Holy Land. The customs and manners of the period are brought to life vividly and the result is a far more solid piece

of writing than most of the author's earlier books with the exception of "The Foxes of Harrow." If anything, at times he has loaded the book with too much detail. He has also provided interesting, if perhaps unnecessary, footnotes.

There are the usual Yerby purple passages, this time written in a stream of consciousness style minus punctuation. With or without punctuation it's still schmalz: "In the dusk she was something to look at something very special so that the illusion was upon him his bitter clarity of the afternoon forgotten lost his fear forgotten death taken into account reckoned with balanced against the curve of red mouth and warmth of white flesh against sweetsoft warm clinging length of limb ghostwhite last night in the darkness etc. etc."

In a few other respects, however, Mr. Yerby has departed from his usual set pattern of plot; one irresistible male loved madly by two breathtakingly beautiful females, one wildly passionate, the other coolly calm. There are several women here, two of whom fit the pattern but one, Io, Pietro recognizes as something less than lovely. Pietro himself is a creature of the mind rather than the body and he is not as subject to the whims of these aggressively loving ladies as other Yerby heroes have been.

"The Saracen Blade" is of interest for its background rather than for its plot which is adventurous and often far-fetched. Mr. Yerby knows how to write a swiftly paced story and "The Saracen Blade" is no exception. I think the author could safely make a few more concessions to reality without damaging his popularity.

"The Saracen Blade" by Frank Yerby; The Dial Press; 461 Fourth Avenue, New York City; 1952; \$3.50

Timely Books

A very fast movement from author to publisher to reader can be claimed for "A Creed for Free Enterprise" by Clarence B. Randall to be published by Little Brown and Company on June 12. Mr. Randall will be remembered

Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

THE long succession of war memoirs by generals and admirals seems almost over. But the flood of books by associates of Franklin D. Roosevelt shows no signs of reaching its end. The newest and one of the longest is published today, "Working With Roosevelt" by Samuel I. Rosenman. Of all the men who worked with Roosevelt probably only two did so on a more intimate basis than Judge Rosenman, and they are dead. Louis Howe and Harry Hopkins. And neither Howe nor Hopkins was as close to Roosevelt for so many years of his public career. From 1928 until the President's death in 1945 Judge Rosenman was Roosevelt's loyal friend and principal ghost-writer.



Judge Rosenman

"This is a partisan book," says Judge Rosenman. It is indeed an affectionate, admiring, New Deal-ing book which will exasperate anyone who does not agree with its author that "Franklin D. Roosevelt, with all his faults, ranked with Washington, Jefferson and Lincoln as one of our greatest Presidents, and he was a very great human being besides." But if it is a partisan book, "Working With Roosevelt" is also a useful book, a valuable contribution to the already appalling mass of Rooseveltiana. *James P. 25*

Who Put What Into a Speech

Future historians are going to have to consult it whether contemporary readers feel up to plodding through its voluminous quotations from Roosevelt speeches or not. And scattered about in Judge Rosenman's massive text are a number of items which should interest casual readers as well as scholars. Most interesting of these, it seems to me, is Judge Rosenman's detailed account of the composition of Roosevelt's speeches.

A Roosevelt speech usually had its origin in some notes by the President about the main points he wished covered, sometimes in material submitted by governmental departments and sometimes, but more rarely, in a first draft written by the President himself. Then the ghosts began to work. Usually several worked together on each speech, usually under pressure late at night, usually submitting one draft after another for the President's corrections seven or eight times, sometimes as often as thirteen times. The ghosts imitated Roosevelt's style and shared his political philosophy. As soon as a ghost disagreed

too much he was replaced by another. Roosevelt accepted suggestions and even some criticism. He invented many famous phrases himself, among them "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" and "one third of a nation ill-housed, ill-clad, ill-nourished."

WORKING WITH ROOSEVELT. By Samuel I. Rosenman. 560 pages. Harper. \$6.

Judge Rosenman's most famous verbal contribution was the most celebrated of all, "New Deal." Raymond Moley was responsible for "the forgotten man" and Stanley High for "economic royalists." Among the most important ghost-writers with whom Judge Rosenman worked at various times were Thomas Corcoran, Benjamin Cohen, Harry Hopkins, Robert E. Sherwood and Archibald MacLeish.

Roosevelt, Judge Rosenman insists, had a gift for words and clear notions of what he wanted said. It was not that he could not have written his own speeches, but that the most responsible job in the world left him no time to do so.

Reflections of a Personality

Judge Rosenman has little new to say about the character of his beloved leader. Like so many others, he succumbed to Roosevelt's charm and interest in people. He admired profoundly Roosevelt's courage, humor, political skill and oratorical adroitness. He agreed with nearly all Roosevelt's policies, including his effort to pack the Supreme Court. But he does consider Roosevelt's effort to "purge" conservative Democrats in 1938 a mistake. As for Roosevelt's faults, Judge Rosenman admits that he was stubborn, secretive, vain (even about his negligible skill at poker and cocktail mixing), avid for flattery and "implacable and vindictive" toward those he thought unfair in their political opposition. His "great failing" was his inability to fire those he no longer trusted. He tried to get others to bear bad news for him, often with highly unsatisfactory results.

Although Judge Rosenman was not present at the Yalta Conference, he met Roosevelt in the Mediterranean and returned with him on the Quincy. Here is his impression of Roosevelt's impression of that conference: "The President made it clear, not only when we were working alone on the speech, but in luncheon and dinner conversation, that he was certain that the Yalta Conference had paved the way for the kind of world that he had been dreaming, planning and talking about. He felt that he understood Stalin and that Stalin understood him. He believed that Stalin had a sincere desire to build constructively on the foundations that had been laid at Yalta; that Stalin was interested in maintaining peace in the world so that the Soviets could make the industrial and social changes he thought necessary."

Judge Rosenman points out that if Stalin had lived up to his commitments such an opinion might have been justified. He does not discuss

the monumental misjudgment which led Roosevelt to think that he understood Stalin as a sincere advocate of peace.

"Working With Roosevelt" contains many reminders of important facts, such as Judge Rosenman's suggestion of a Brain Trust of college professors and the plan of Roosevelt and Wilkie to organize "a new liberal party" uniting the left wings of both their parties. And there are amusingly trivial such as the White House beds being very uncomfortable until they were changed in honor of the 1939 visit of the King and Queen of England and the White House food being inferior to that served on the Presidential yacht. But finding these facts among all the quotations from half-forgotten speeches is a dreary chore.

Books Published Today

BRIDGE IS AN EASY GAME, by Iain Macleod (British Book Centre, \$3.25). A summary of Britain's Alcol system.

CRUSADE: The Fight for Economic Democracy in North America, 1921-45, by Roy E. Bergengren, in collaboration with Agnes C. Gartland and James W. Brown (Exposition, \$3.75).

HE HANGED THEM HIGH: An Authentic Account of the Fanatical Judge Who Hanged Eighty-eight Men, by Homer Croy (Duell, Sloan & Pearce-Little, Brown, \$4). A biography of Judge Isaac C. Parker of Fort Smith and the Indian Territory.

OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRY, by Hargreaves Parkinson (British Book Centre, \$6). An examination of Britain's economy.

PEPPERBOX FIREARMS, by Lewis Winant (Greenberg, \$5.50).

ROY CAMPANELLA, by Dick Young; **YOGI BERRA**, by Joe Trimble (A. S. Barnes, \$2.50 each). Volumes in the Most Valuable Player series.

SCANDINAVIA: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, edited by Dore Ogrizek (McGraw-Hill, \$6.50). A travel guide in the World in Color series.

SECRET CITIES OF OLD SOUTH AMERICA: Atlantis Unveiled, by Harold T. Wilkins (Library Publishers, \$6). A study.

THE LAST YEARS OF NIJINSKY, by his wife, Romola Nijinsky (Simon & Schuster, \$3.50). Second volume of a biography of the dancer, the first being published in 1934, entitled "Nijinsky."

THE OLYMPIC PAGEANT, by Alexander M. Weyand (Macmillan, \$4.75). An account of the international sports event from 1896 to 1948.

THE STATES AND SUBVERSION, edited by Walter Gellhorn (Cornell University, \$5). A collection of studies dealing with Federal and state "un-American activities" committees.

WORKING W-

WITH ROOSEVELT, by Samuel I. Rosenman (Harper, \$6). Reviewed today.

Hughes' Book Tells Gains Since Slavery

NEW YORK—In the hundred years since "Uncle Tom's Cabin" was published the American Negro has made such tremendous progress that Langston Hughes was bound to tell the story of the Negro from the dawn of history to the present with emphasis on the Negro of America.

And such is Hughes' new book, "The First Book of Negroes." Hughes is a columnist for the Chicago Defender. *18-18-52*

In this book Langston Hughes sums up the attitude of most American Negroes. Told in narrative form, the book tells about Terry Lane, a little boy who lives in Harlem and who visits different parts of the city and is told about other parts of the country. The story is told without bitterness but with understanding and compassion.

Among the famous Negroes discussed are Estevanico, the great explorer; Harriett Tubman, leader to freedom; George Washington Carver, scientist; Louis Armstrong, musician; Jackie Robinson, baseball player; Josephine Baker, entertainer; Dr. Ralph Bunche, statesman, and others.

Liberia's Dept. Of State

Issues 50-Page Booklet

Liberia's Department of State has issued a 50-page booklet illustrated with maps and pictures about the modern buildings in the capital, modern bridges, rubber and mining installations.

It contains photographs of the President, cabinet and officials, the inaugural exercises, copy of the inaugural address, the airport, Firestone Rubber plant, the Bomi Hills Iron Mines, schools and a chapter on health and sanitation.

It also contains a table showing how revenue receipts have increased from \$1,500,000 in 1943 to \$12,800,000 in 1951 and a list of Liberia's diplomatic and consulate representatives throughout the world and those assigned to Liberia.

Huge Balance of Trade

A table showing that exports were \$51,000,000 last year and imports were \$17,000,000 was included, as well as a copy of Liberia's national anthem and a listing of the national holidays in Liberia.

There are also reproductions of 15 postage stamps showing photographs of the Presidents of Liberia.

For anyone interested in Liberia's progress and development this booklet is a must. Copies may be obtained by writing to the Liberian Embassy, Washington, D. C.

Books—Authors

An analysis of the situation in South Africa by Emil Solomon Sachs, a South African trade-union leader, has been scheduled by the Philosophical Library for Aug. 27 publication. It is titled "The Choice Before South Africa." The publishers report that the book, which is anti-Malan, has been banned in Capetown and Johannesburg and that its author has been placed under arrest.

Dr. Johnson Among 1,000 Novelists Give Wrong Slant On Negro. Writer Brings Out

NEW YORK — (ANP) — The world's biggest history writing job will be tackled by 1,000 scholars. The six-volume extravaganza on mankind to cost \$600,000 is scheduled for publication in 1957 by its sponsors, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization. Its tentative title is "A History of Mankind."

Dr. Ralph E. Turner, professor of History at Yale University, has been selected as chairman of the editorial committee. The author of a two-volume history, "The Great Cultural Traditions," he recently made a 15-month world tour as a Rockefeller Fellow studying cultural conditions.

A panel of 75 scholars known as corresponding members and another group of 35 equally eminent authorities to serve as consultants will be chosen.

The historian members of the editorial committee and the seven author-editors will meet in Paris February 11-18. They will map plans for the writing of the history and nominate scholars to cooperate in the task. Teamwork will be stressed.

Dr. Charles S. Johnson, President of Fisk University, author of several books on sociology and a member of the U. S. group on the International Commission for a Scientific and Cultural History of Mankind, is expected to be chosen as one of the corresponding members from the representatives of 32 countries co-operating.

In the latest issue of PHYLON, the Atlanta University review of race and culture, which is off the press this week, Charles Glicksberg of Brooklyn College, cites the fact that "There is still room for a talented novelist who will write a fictionalized life of the Negro race in the United States." In his article entitled "Bias Fiction and the Negro," Glicksberg expresses criticism of the "white" novelists who have written in a spirit of burning indignation or compassion without the imaginative insight that can view the problem as a whole. He states in this regard, "They fail to regard the Negro as a problem" and this perpetuates some of the familiar stereotypes about the Negro.... The one thing these novels do not do is to portray the Negro as essentially human and 'normal,' filled with the same general pattern of life and subject to the same fate." Glicksberg also feels that these writers, up to the present, have failed to suggest the humanity of the Negro and the fundamental rhythm of his life. In closing he makes the statement that "the Negro author would be best suited to undertake this epic theme on 'The American Tragedy!'"

Elwood S. McKenney, a member of Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, in an article on FEPC in that state, writes that industrial discrimination does not come to an end spontaneously, therefore the FEPC statute is needed to open the door for private informal negotiation. The Bay State attorney points to a need for employee and community education, a more enlightened vocational guidance program for youth, better and more practical schooling and non-discriminatory participation in apprentice training, all of which would have bearing on establishing a larger skilled market of all groups which can qualify for its chance at equal opportunity of employment.

B. A. Jones of Talladega College presents a case analysis of the relationship between law and custom in his article, "New Legal Requirements of Race Relation in the South;" and Everett S. Brown of the University of Michigan warns of the pitfalls and traps that dot the obstacle course of those who seek after the good. E. Franklin Frazier,

who is with UNESCO in Paris, has a tribute to the late University of Chicago educator, Louis Wirth; and William H. Brown, director of the Bureau of Educational Research at North Carolina College, has written on "Attitudes Toward the Education of Negroes." Cedric Dover of London, Donald D. Stewart of the University of Arkansas, and Norman D. Humphrey of Wayne University are also contributors.

In addition there are book reviews by Grace Boggs, Edward A. Jones, Roscoe Lewis, L. D. Reddick, William Record and Alma T. Watkins.

Negro In Politics Now On Exhibit At Atlanta Univ

One of the most colorful and timely exhibits to be shown this year at Atlanta University's Trevor Arnett Library is "The Negro in Politics" which opened on Tuesday for a brief showing. Against a patriotic background of this nation's red, white and blue colors, which are boldly and dramatically used, is displayed a collection of photographs showing the wide range of Negro office holders in international, national, state and local affairs. There are also copies of bills and resolutions that have been introduced by Negro representatives in the United Nations, the United States Congress, state legislatures and city councils.

A feature of the exhibit displays the increasingly important role of Negro women in politics. Outstanding examples include Mrs. Christine Ray Davis, chief clerk of the House Committee on Expenditures; Mrs. Anna A. Hedgman of the Federal Security Agency; Mrs. Thomasina W. Norford of the U. S. Employment Service; Judge Jane Bolin of the New York Court of Domestic Relations; Mrs. Jean Capers, councilwoman of Cleveland Ohio, and Mrs. Esther Archer, councilwoman of Canton, Ohio.

In a display case devoted to international affairs may be seen such familiar figures as Ralph Bunche, director, division of trusteeship of the United Nations; Channing Tobias and Mrs. Edith Sampson of the United Nations;

C. C. Wimbish of Illinois; Elijah Crump and Bertram Baker of New York City, demonstrates that all forms of "reaching the voters"—posters, stickers, postal cards, television and radio speeches, were used by these skillful campaigners. One unique feature of the section on city office holders shows that in the little town of Italy, Texas, there is a Negro mayor, Mr. John Farrow, who has his council that is parallel to that of the white mayor and his city council.

For national figures, Congressman Adam C. Powell, Jr., of New York, and William H. Dawson of Chicago, share the limelight along with Federal Judge William Hastie, U. S. Circuit Court. Scores of Negroes hold seats in some dozen or more state legislatures. The campaign literature of William B. Rumford of California;

and Ambassador to Liberia, Edward R. Dudley.

Book Review—

Record Of How Laws Help End Bias

"EQUALITY By Statute"—which shows that you can legislate against prejudice—could not have been issued at a better time.

Various presidential candidates have taken various stands on FEPC, but they can be roughly divided into two categories—those who think that education of the people will eventually give a better break for Negro workers and those who believe that legislation is necessary to help do the job.

The author, Dr. Monroe Berger, who is assistant professor of sociology at Princeton Univ., has looked history and facts squarely in the face and has come up with this conclusion:

"We have reviewed the advances in minority status and welfare, the changing role of the Supreme Court, the operation of the New York State Law Against Discrimination, and the evidence from sociology, social psychology and psychoanalysis.

"All this indicates that law in our society is a formidable means for the elimination of group discrimination and for the establishment of conditions which discourage prejudicial attitudes.

"Law, we find, has certain potentialities in this area of human behavior. It can codify our society's loftiest ideals rather than its basest practices—that is, the legal machinery can be drawn from the support of discriminatory practices.

"This is, of course, a rather negative function, but there are others more positive. Law can withhold certain privileges from the discriminators. It can put the state's influence and power on the side of those who are discriminated against and give them more effective means for defending themselves.

"Law can also help establish those fundamental conditions of social life which encourage free association of all groups and which discourage prejudicial attitudes.

"Frequently, favorable laws can be wedges for advances in the status and welfare of groups which are made the object of unfair discrimination. In summary, law can affect our acts and, through them, our beliefs."

The burden of the book is the operation of the New York State anti-discrimination law. Dr. Berger says the law "offers the best opportunity for an appraisal of such legislation since it has been in operation the longest, has evoked widespread comment, and is administered by an agency with a budget larger than those of similar agencies in other states."

"Although the State Commission Against Discrimination has administered the law cautiously, there is no doubt by now that a measure such as the Ives-Quinn Law (which is another name for the New York act) is appropriate to achieve its end, the reduction of employment discrimination," he declared.

Only three northern states besides New York have similar laws, which proves that progress on a state-by-state basis is slow. What is needed is a Federal FEPC—now that we know from this study that law not only works but breaks down discriminatory behavior.

"Equality By Statute" by Monroe Berger, Columbia Univ. Press, Price: \$3.25.

**BOOK
REVIEWS
by
GERTRUDE MARTIN**

Facts and figures document a much needed new book on Africa, "Southern Africa" by Basil Davidson, an Englishman. In it Mr. Davidson examines conditions in South Africa today against their historical background.

He devotes most of his space where the situation is highly explosive as almost daily newspaper stories from there would indicate. But he also takes a careful look at Southern and Northern Rhodesia and the British Protectorates: Bechuanaland, Basutoland, and Swaziland.

The author traces the sorry history of oppression of the African native in the Union of South Africa under both English and Afrikaner (Dutch ancestry) governments.

The present Malan government with its theory of "apartheid," (complete segregation of the native), has gone farthest along the road in denying the native all semblance of political or economic freedom. Yet little has been done under any leadership, including that of the late General Smuts, to give the natives even a minimum of freedom and decent living conditions.

Mr. Davidson shows that policies in the English territories in Southern Africa have much to do with conditions in the Union. The recruitment of native workers from all sections means that the influence of the great mining companies extend well beyond the Union's borders.

British policies to the natives are also important and the author points out that there has been little difference between Labor and Conservative governments in this respect. The exiling of Seretse Khama is an example of the way in which the British appease the South Africans, the author notes.

Lillian Smith has written repeatedly of the effect on the Southern white man of his treatment of the Negro. Mr. Davidson here has much the same to say of the white South African:

"In terms of civilization, it is hard to say who suffers the more from this racial crucifixion—the white man or the non-white man.

For if it is true that the non-white man suffers poverty, disease, contempt, and the imminent danger of extermination by 'natural' causes, it is no less true that the white man suffers by los-

ing all touch with a healthy belief in humanity."

For the future the author sees hope in the growing industrialization of South Africa. The new industries have more enlightened policies toward the native companies. Even the government leaders who advocate apartheid on the one hand are aware to a growing extent that it simply cannot work in an economy dependent on native labor.

Today in rare instances white and black workers work side by side in factories; a few unions have unsegregated memberships.

"Southern Africa" is a well written factual presentation of conditions existing in South Africa today. The plight of the native African is of world wide concern, and as Mr. Davidson points out, the African is seeking a better life for himself. Negroes have a particular interest in race relations in South Africa.

American capital is beginning to compete with British capital in investing in South African industry and this is an added reason for Americans to learn what is happening there. This book offers a comprehensive examination of the South African scene and it can be highly recommended.

"Southern Africa" by Basil Davidson, The British Book Centre; 122 E. 55th st.; New York 22, N. Y.; \$3.50.

Unions And Negro Employment

A SURVEY made by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* on the Negro's economic status in America pretty well parallels the report of a Senate Labor Subcommittee. The findings in both cases indicated that the Negro's lot has improved greatly in recent years, but that there is still a considerable gap between his position and the white worker's.

In large measure, as the *Post-Dispatch* points out, the Negro's rise in industry has been hampered by the prejudicial attitude of labor unions. Although great strides have been made by the CIO and AFL in breaking down this internal barrier, the Negro still faces more or less formidable prejudices on the part of labor as well as management.

It should be pointed out in this connection that often an employer—this is particularly true in the South—is "prejudiced" against the Negro because of the prejudice of his white employees.

The plant manager may know that a prospective Negro worker is well qualified. He may be anxious to hire the Negro. But he fears the harmonious operation of his plant will be disrupted because of the attitude of some of the white workers. His reason for not hiring the Negro may not be so much a personal prejudice as it is the knowledge that it's bad business for him.

It's hard to tell a man charged with duty of keeping expenses to a minimum and efficiency at a maximum that he should be a crusader—hire the Negro even though it costs the company money.

NOW that unions have taken the initiative in eliminating these attitudes by educational programs, management's prejudice should be proportionately reduced.

As late as 1945, according to the *Post-Dispatch*, some 30 unions consistently practiced discrimination by constitutional provisions in their union charters; or by tacitly agreeing to keep Negroes out; or by forcing the Negro into

segregated auxiliary locals.

In most cases the constitutional provisions have been eliminated, but unions in many cases still inhibit the Negro by tacit agreements or by control of apprenticeships, particularly in the craft unions.

Even the railroad operating unions, the traditional nucleus of resistance to Negro membership, has shown signs of relaxing their restrictions, although their rolls remain virtually closed to Negroes, the *Post-Dispatch* says.

In *The Negro In The United States* by E. Franklin Frazier, Negro professor of sociology at Howard University, the CIO's fight against discrimination in its membership is noted:

In the South the most important movement toward the integration of Negro workers into industry has been the drive of the CIO which got under way at the beginning of 1946. The CIO has maintained the principle of nonsegregated local unions. This policy has been adopted on the basis of past experience which showed that separate local unions established vested interests among Negro as well as white workers. In connection with the union drive there is an educational campaign designed to reduce racial prejudice and discrimination. The drive of the CIO has been successful, especially in textiles, lumber, and food processing. Moreover there is greater acceptance of the idea of upgrading Negro workers as well as of equal pay.

★
THUS it is obvious that it is not always management who is responsible for "holding the Negro down," as the general belief goes. The educational programs of unions will accomplish from within what no force legislation could ever do.

THE BELOVED COUNTRY

THE CHOICE BEFORE SOUTH AFRICA, by E. S. Sachs (Philosophical Library; \$5.75). THE PEOPLES AND POLICIES OF SOUTH AFRICA, by Leo Marquard (Oxford; \$3.50). RACIAL SEPARATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, by E. P. Dvorin (Chicago; \$4.50).

"SOUTH AFRICA is the greenest laurel on the brow of progress" wrote one exultant nineteenth-century liberal. "Nowhere do the progressive exert a more powerful and beneficent influence on the conduct of public affairs." Slavery was abolished at the Cape a generation before the institution came under fire in America, and without a civil war. The malcontent slave-owners were pushed out of the Colony and had to find a new home in the backveld. Even there they were not safe but were twice annexed, the second time they lost their political independence. This was twice restored to them by relenting Liberal Governments at Westminster in the hope that they would broaden and soften.

However, neither the experience of parliamentary government nor a prolonged prosperity has been able to arrest a process which today appears to be restoring the *status quo ante emancipationem*. Though the national income has risen threefold since the Depression and has all but wiped out poor whiteness, civil liberties are being increasingly curtailed.

A spate of books, many of them surprisingly well-informed, draw morals, explain and peer into the future. Evidently the world wants to read about South Africa and the familiar ground is ploughed up again and again to yield ever new crops of the same staple of facts.

Of the present three authors one is a trade unionist; another an educator who was once a senior officer in the Union Defense Force; the third an American academic worker. The labor leader is the most optimistic and oldest chapter and he now finds himself behind prison bars for displeasing the

Malan Government. Mr. Sachs's message to all European workers in South Africa is to drop ("me-too") racialism and adopt a New Deal philosophy across the color lines. Since South Africa is essentially a poor country, Leo Marquard—the solitary Boer in this batch of writers—advises his countrymen to accept each other and the English-speaking Europeans and the Indians and the Colored and the Bantu as in South Africa to stay for good. Collaboration should not be difficult if economics be given priority over politics. Mr. Dvorin going a step farther counsels liberals to stop banging their head against "Apartheid" barriers and accept the traditional attitudes while unfolding the positive aspects so that the Bantu can enjoy social services equal though separate.

The authors handle the particular emotional difficulties with which the Boers have to wrestle despite their bluff exterior with great fairness and sympathy. Speaking a language unknown in Europe but feeling themselves, assertively, Europeans; 1½ million of them recklessly pitched against world opinion; "apart" in a world convulsively drawing together; they persist in venerating their ox wagons of old (the symbol of the "volk") while embracing the cool comforts of the Chevrolet and the icebox. If modern technology menaces their way of life, it encourages them to cling the more grimly to their pre-industrial ideology and the harsh relationship of white master and black servant of those days. Their outlook may be narrow but the Boer's ideal still is spaciouly ambitious. He wants to own a farm large enough not to distinguish his neighbor's smoke on the horizon even if this implies driving out the African peasant. This is becoming more and more impossible of achievement. Not only is South Africa too small, it is wasting itself and the backveld is ablaze for all the world to see the smoke and the fire. This prompts the most crucial question of all: cannot the outside world do something to stop the passions from consuming the subcontinent? Al-

though their books will obviously be more widely studied abroad than in the Union not one of the writers fully refers to possible action which might be taken.

LEO SILBERMAN

Books and Authors

The only two books published today are from the University of North Carolina Press. One is David Mitrany's "Marx Against the Peasant: A Study in Social Dogmatism." Selling for \$4.50. The other is "A Two-Party South?" by Alexander Heard, an analysis of the changes in the politics of the South. It sells for \$4.75.

Honored at Dinner For Writing Story

By HARRY LEVETTE

HOLLYWOOD, Cal. — (ANP) — Because her name was merely listed among the 15 writers, composers, producers, and directors, who had awards and cash prizes in the famous annual contest held by the Christopher, and no mention made of her nationality, the general public did not know in advance that Miss Mary Elizabeth Vroman is a colored girl.

Hence when a pretty, shapely, stylishly but modestly attired brown-skinned young lady, rose at the call of the radio announcer from her seat on the rostrum of the Beverly Hills Crystal room it was a genuine surprise. A pleased murmur of excitement ran among the several hundred diners, which included some of the most celebrated stars and figures in the world. The few colored guests present, thrilled with pride as prolonged applause rang out for her.

She had won a bronze trophy, and \$2,000 in cash for a story she had written which appeared in the June, 1951 issue of the Ladies Home Journal. In her brief speech of acceptance, she expressed in soft well-modulated tones how deeply grateful she was for the award, and the encouragement it gave her to continue to do her best.

Both before and after the presentation from the rostrum reporters, columnist, and photographers gathered around her but she remained smiling, and well-poised through it all.

Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Somerville, at whose Sugar Hill mansion she was guest during her sojourn here were guests at the dinner, and they too were photographed.

Besides my lovely companion Miss Shantez Forson, other colored guests present were Courier columnist Joe Harris, and company and photographer Tab. Simpkins, who shot scenes both for the Courier and ANP.

Miss Vroman was born in Buffalo, N. Y., November, 1923, only child of an Alabama father and a British West Indian mother.

At the age of three she was taken by her mother to a firm be-

liever in the virtues of a solid British education, to the tiny island of Antigua, where she was reared and educated by Nellie Robinson, her "Tante Nell."

Nellie Robinson is herself a woman of real stature. Founded the T.O.R., Memorial high school, first of its kind in Antigua, and has been honored by the British Commonwealth for her work in educational and civic affairs. She was, of course a great influence in her niece's development.

At 15 Miss Vroman returned to the United States, to Montgomery, Ala. She entered the Alabama State college for Negroes in 1940, to begin a rather haphazard and interrupted college career—where times were good, going to college when bad, teaching.

Miss Vroman says she never wanted to be a teacher, but dreamed of being an actress, but now loves teaching and her pupils.

The teacher-author likes books, people, Chopin, dancing, swimming and all kinds of pie. She sings in a choir, but stays at the piano to her family's bargain—she's a catastrophe.

Books Published Today About Books

BY JAMES J. FOREE

For ANP P. 3

BEST ABOUT NEGROES DURING YEAR OF 1951

AGES IN CHAOS, Vol. I: From the Exodus to King Akhnaton, by Immanuel Velikovsky (Doubleday, \$4.50). A reconstruction of ancient history.

GLORY OF OUR WEST, foreword by Joseph Henry Jackson (Doubleday, \$2.95). Fifty full-color photographs with descriptions and commentaries by thirty-five writers.

PASSION PLAY, by Olive Sansom (John Day, \$3). A novel about the residents of a Bavarian village in the Alps.

POLITICAL ZOO, by Clare Barnes Jr. (Doubleday, \$1, paper). A collection of animal photographs with humorous captions.

PROMISED LAND, by Joan Lowell, drawings by Barbara Corrigan (Duell, Sloan & Pearce-Little, Brown, \$3.50). Reviewed today.

THE PEARL HUNTER: An Autobiography by Leonard Rosenthal, illustrated by Rachel Rosenthal, translated from the French by Herma Briffault (Henry Schuman, \$3).

THE SPENDTHRIFTS, by Benito Perez Galdos, illustrations by Charles Mozley, introduction by Gerald Brennan (Farrar, Straus & Young, \$3.50). A volume in the Illustrated Novel Library.

TRUTHS, HALF-TRUTHS AND BUNDS IN AMERICAN CIVILIZATION: The Influence of Words and Phrases in Daily Life, by Harry Scher (Exposition, \$3).

USES OF THE PAST: Profiles of Former Societies, by Herbert J. Muller (Oxford University, \$5.50). A survey of History.

WEST AFRICAN EXPLORERS, edited by C. Howard, introduction by J. H. Plumb (Oxford University, \$2). A volume in the World's Classics series.

WHAT IS THE INDEX? by Redmond A. Burke, C. S. V. (Bruce, \$2.75). An explanation of the Roman Catholic Church's position on reading.

WHY YOU SHOULD NOT TRY TO FIX YOUR OWN TV, by John D. Burke (John D. Burke Co., \$1, paper).

YEARBOOK OF PSYCHOANALYSIS, Volume VII, Sandor Lorand, M. D. (International Universities, \$7.50).

Many books have been written about and concerning Negroes during the last year. Some of them have been good and worthy of the time required in reading them.

Foremost among these was 'Communism Vs. The Negro,' published by William A. Nolan, published by Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, Ill. This 206-page book, which sells for \$3.50, is of great value not only because of the interest shown in anything involving Communism, but for the crystal clear over-all picture it succeeds in giving of fifth column activities among unsuspecting colored persons.

The author does not make startling revelations about individual persons and organizations; rather he emphasizes trends and techniques, strategies and tactics.

Communist activity in many famous cases—the Scottsboro, Angelo Herndon, Ingram, and Trenton Six—are exposed. How they exploited these tragic cases to further the interest of the "Party" is well told.

A cardinal policy of the comrades who follow the Soviet line is to infiltrate Negro organizations which occupy positions of respect and influence among ordinary colored people.

Another trick devised to win support of Negroes was the theory of SELF DETERMINATION in the South. According to this idea, Negroes would be given a certain section in which they would be allowed to live and work out their own salvation.

That colored people resisted these attempts of the American Communist Party to win their support was attributed by Nolan, the author, to their belief in the American creed and the knowledge that the Federal government and the Constitution were on their side.

For these persons who say that Communist influence among Negroes is negligible as well as those who are simply gullible, 'Communism Vs. The Negro' is a must for reading.

In writing this well-documented expose, Nolan, who is a research staff member of the Institute of Social Order, St. Louis University, has studied carefully The Daily Worker as well as many other left-wing organs.

BOOKS ON RACE

People in the United States, edited by Herbert Aptheker and with a preface by W. E. B. DuBois. Priced at \$7.50 and consisting of 442 pages, this book has carefully recorded the history of colored people from colonial times to 1910. It is told in the words of the men and women who were active in events of their generation.

One of the best books written on the Negro in America is 'A Documentary History of the Negro

HISTORY OF NEGRO PROBLEMS OF RACE RELATIONS ARE THORNTON

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Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

ONE of the most ambitious and, in certain respects, one of the most impressive novels of the current publishing season is Worth Tuttle Hedden's oddly titled "Love Is a Wound."* Love, as it is experienced by three major characters of this intense and painful book, is a trial and a tribulation, an obsession and an agonizing emotional torture. To love is



Worth Tuttle Hedden

to suffer as if from a mental disease. And for them that's what love is, a disease of which the most conspicuous symptom is jealousy. Naturally, then, "Love Is a Wound" has its resemblances to a case history in a work on abnormal psychology. Worth Tuttle Hedden is a North Carolinian who now lives in Fairfield County, Conn. She is the author of another novel, "The Other Room," which won considerable acclaim on its publication five years ago. "Love Is a Wound" should add to her reputation substantially. It may be unpleasant; but it is psychologically convincing and exceedingly dramatic. Mrs. Hedden is a shrewd observer of character and an expert novelist. Her book is massive and detailed, probably more detailed than necessary; but its feverish tension never relaxes. It is a story with narrative pace and dramatic power in addition to being an alarming exposure of the inmost depths of three tormented human beings.

Convincingly Unpleasant

"Love Is a Wound" is divided into three parts, each told from the point of view of one of three persons. In each part present action alternates with memories of the past complete with dialogue and the exact images of stream-of-consciousness reveries thirty-five years old. Such impossibly examples of total recall are somewhat distracting at first in their artificiality; but one soon becomes accustomed to them and accepts them as a literary convention. One cannot help but accept them, for Mrs. Hedden seizes your attention firmly and never lets it go. Her ear for natural dialogue is expert; her gift for characterization striking; her mastery of local atmosphere deft and sure.

This is the story of two sisters who loved the same man and of the man who loved both

***LOVE IS A WOUND.** By Worth Tuttle Hedden. 481 pages. Crown. \$3.75.

sisters. The situation was intolerable. But it lasted for life. It was made particularly frightful by the fact that one of the sisters allowed her jealousy to destroy her mind and character until she was subject to fits of insanity, and by

the fact that both sisters shared the same nouse, almost shared the same husband.

Ora Fanning was the responsible older sister who never had a beau until the new Methodist minister, "Mistuh" Humiston, came calling. Ellen was the younger sister, beautiful, frivolous, self-centered. David Humiston was handsome, vital and vain, convinced of his partnership with God. He switched from Ora when he saw Ellen and all his life thereafter enjoyed the knowledge that not one, but two women loved him.

Echoes of the Civil War

Ora's part of the story is confined mostly to the spring and summer of 1884 in Bayport, N. C., when she nearly captured David. It is the most conventionally colorful section of Mrs. Hedden's book, filled with echoes of slavery and the Civil War and feminine chatter and the pitiful, sex-starved raptures of a neurotic woman whose hopes were soon to be blasted.

Ellen's story is confined to her years of marriage, years in which she bore five daughters and matured immensely through love, through knowledge and through suffering. A Methodist minister had little money to waste on help. Ora had no home of her own and loved to sew and manage and mother Ellen's children. So Ora lived with her sister and brother-in-law, casting a pall of unexpressed fear over the household with her jealousy, gradually succumbing to self-pity, spite and hate until she collapsed into periodic fits of moaning madness.

In David's story everything is seen from a different light. David was devoutly religious, an idealist and a good man in many ways. But he was selfish without admitting it, weak, stupid and cruel without meaning to be. David through selfishness, Ora through madness and Ellen through pity and fear ruined one another's lives.

Although the three major characters completely dominate Mrs. Hedden's story, the many minor ones are sharply and interestingly portrayed: the sister's childhood friends, their adult circle, the five daughters and their friends. Talk flows across nearly every page of this long book, good, Southern, gossipy talk about trivialities as well as about emotional tempests. And the complicated arrangement of flashbacks within three different memories means that unexpected revelations occur at the most surprising times.

"Love Is a Wound" is overlong and somewhat repetitious. It is still another novel by a Southerner that presents love and family life in the South as a shuddering horror. But it is neither obscure nor degenerate. The insights it offers into weak and sinful minds and hearts inspire pity, not revulsion.



RUTH ELLINGTON (Duke's sister) presented Dr. George Edmund Haynes, author of "Africa, Continent of the Future," on her radio program last week in a discussion of the book

with African students in this country. Here Dr. Haynes, extreme right, is shown presenting one of the books to Babe Pafundwa, one of the students.

Dr. Bunche Is Praised In Books

NEW YORK—(ANP)—James G. McDonald, writing "My Mission to Israel," describes Ralph J. Bunche as "unquestionably the intellectual leader of the group, widely informed, cogent in his arguments and withal, extremely charming." The group discussed included the late Count Folke Bernadotte, mediator for Palestine, Dr. Bunche and five associates.

Mr. McDonald wrote, "Bunche displayed extraordinary talents for bringing hostile groups together. His quick mind discerned every possible point of agreement; his charm and palatable his tenacious following up of each slight gain; and when arguments failed, his driving and indefatigable energy overbore the hesitation of both Jews and Arabs."

"Sometimes his success was due to the physical and mental exhaustion which his pace had brought to those who worked under his chairmanship. The full extent of his skills as a draftsman was not generally appreciated until the armistices had been in effect for nearly a year. . . to have prepared them (the texts guiding the doings of the Arabs and Jews) without alarming either Israel or the Arab States was a near miracle of Bunche draftsmanship." the Arab States was a near miracle of Bunche draftsmanship.

African Prince Writing Book On Native Land

GREENSBORO, N. C. — The world's first history of Africa's ancient systems of communications will be available in the next 12 months, it was disclosed here last week. The book is being written by Dr. Akiki K. Nyabongo, Oxford-educated African prince.

The book, to be published by the Buffalo (N. Y.) Museum, will deal with secrets of how flowers, leaves, grass, seeds, twigs, clay, brads, stones and animal hair are used to transmit jungle messages, according to the author.

Announcement of the forthcoming book was made by the prince during his holiday visit at A. and T. College where he formerly taught. He said the multi-lingual reference work will be ready in a year.

DR. NYABONGO, WHO lives in Brooklyn, N. Y., recently returned from a tour of Europe and Africa in search of data and specimens. He found no information in the museums and libraries of white nations, but brought back approximately 1,000 pictures and samples from the field, he reported.

The book will carry information handed down orally for thousands of years, the author said. The facts will be classified and described in English, Latin, German, French and in other tongues of Rutoro or Runyakitara. The prince was born in the Kingdom of Toro inside Uganda, East Africa.

LOOKS AT BOOKS

A MONUMENTAL NEGRO DOCUMENTARY HISTORY

THOSE who hold that Negroes submitted tamely to slavery — and probably most Americans do — are due for a great shock, could they be induced to read "A Documentary History of the Negro People of the United States," edited by that indefatigable researcher, Dr. Herbert Aptheker (Citadel Press, New York, N. Y., \$7.50) because we have here, not what Dr. Aptheker or any other historian said, but what the Negroes themselves said and did. The 942 pages of this book from their own mouth and pen is a living, breathing story of how human beings, incidentally Negroes, react to oppression and injustice.

Here are petitions, appeals, incitations to revolt, conspiracies, rebellions and risking of life for freedom, not counting the cost. With a change of environment it could be a story of white people in Europe or the Americas.

The account begins in 1661 with a petition to the Dutch in New York and continues through the era of the Revolution into the early national period, the abolitionist era, the Civil War, Reconstruction, post-Reconstruction and to 1910. Many Negroes did precisely what whites or any other "race" would have done under like conditions. They attacked the oppressors, sometimes by subterranean methods, sometimes openly. New York had two such plots. In that of 1741, they resorted to fire and several important buildings went up in smoke for which twenty-nine Negroes were executed, some being burned alive. In 1800, Philadelphia Negroes sent a strong petition to Congress against the fugitive slave act and the slave trade and the same year Gabriel of Henrico County, Va., conspired to butch-

er the masters for which he was hanged. Undaunted, one of his fellow slaves, Arthur, urged on the others with these words, "Black men, if you have a mind to join with me now is your time for freedom. All clever men who will keep secret these words I give to you is life. I have taken it on myself to let the country be at liberty this lies upon my mind for a long time. Mind men, I have told you a great deal. I have joined with both black and white, which is the common or poor white people. I have got eight or ten white men to lead me in the fight on the magazine. They will be before me and will hand out guns, powder, pistols, shot." He concludes, "Black men, I mean to lose my life in this way if they will take it."

Gabriel's plot was followed by that of Denmark Vesey of Charleston, S. C., in which thirty-seven were hanged but Nat Turner of Virginia rebelled, killing some sixty whites and was for a time so dangerous that United States troops had to be called out to help subdue him. He and sixteen of his followers were hanged. Six pages here give in his own words why he rose against the white masters.

Given also is the first editorial in the first Negro newspaper, Freedom's Journal, March 16, 1827, by John Brown Russwurm, which is certainly as well-written and as eloquent as anything today. Appearing, too, are two militant pamphlets of 1829 by Robert Young and David Walker as well as some of the most stirring passages from Frederick's Douglass. Those who think that the Negroes of today are too radical will, on reading this book, find them almost tame by comparison. Of course, what the Uncle Toms said is in it too.

Dr. Aptheker has rendered and immense service, not only to Negro history, but to documentation in a generally neglected phase of American life. The gathering of these docu-

ments some from very remote sources meant a lot of hard work. A book of this kind is very effective. If anything can stir supine, do-nothing Negroes to a sense of what is due them as American citizens and human beings, these messages from their ancestors will. (J. A. Rogers, New York, N. Y.)

History Of The Negro People

(From The Christian Advocate)

This recent publication, "A Documentary History of the Negro People," by Dr. Herbert Aptheker, is truly a monumental work (The Citadel Press, New York, \$7.50). It is not simply an authentic story of the contributions of the Negro in American life from Colonial days to 1910, but it is the voice of the Negro himself as he is represented in his long struggle for freedom and opportunities to participate in and contribute to the stream of American life.

There are other works which have been descriptive of the Negro, and they have done a good job in interpreting his role in America. But in his 942 page book, Dr. Aptheker gives us the words and thought of scores of Negroes who lived through the critical periods of slavery, serfdom, the Civil war, the Reconstruction era, and the Negro's continuous struggle to make a place in the life of the nation.

When one reads, for example, the letter of Frederick Douglass to his former master on the tenth anniversary of his flight from slavery, Douglass becomes more than simply a historical character; he comes alive and one feels his heart beat, move along with him in his hopes and joins hands with him in the common struggle for freedom everywhere.

The book is not a story about the Negro. It is the story of the Negro as he tells it himself through his own words in the form of letters, petitions, addresses, debates, manuscripts, newspapers, journals and various other media of expression.

Dr. Aptheker, in setting forth the purpose of his book in his introduction says: "This work attempts, within the limit of a half million words, to present the essence of the first three hundred years of the history of the American Negro people. This is done through the words of Negro men, women and children themselves . . . These are the words of participants, of eye witnesses. These are the words of the very great and the very obscure; these are the words of the mass. This is how they felt; this is what they saw; this is what they wanted . . ."

This scholarly document is the result of 15 years of painstaking research on the part of Dr. Aptheker. As far as we know, it is the most exhaustive collection of primary documents, depicting the story of the Negro now in existence.

This is a very invaluable book, and no person should attempt a treatise on the Negro in America without perusing its pages.

From Hot New Orleans to Cool Jazz

A HISTORY OF JAZZ IN AMERICA
By Barry Ulanov. 384 pp. New York: The Viking Press. \$5.

By WILDER HOBSON

WITH this book Barry Ulanov becomes the lengthiest apologist of the recent jazz dialects known as "be-bop" and "cool" music. The most prominent figures in be-bop are the saxophonist Charles "Yardbird" Parker and the trumpeter "Dizzy" Gillespie, while the outstanding cool musician is perhaps the pianist Lennie Tristano. These are all remarkable musical individuals, and in the light of their finer performances it is quite easy to share Mr. Ulanov's hopes for the development of improvised jazz exploring "the lines of polytonal and atonal music played in contrapuntal frames." It is unfortunate, but presumably inevitable, that the original work of such men should promote the mannerisms of lesser players, until most be-pop or cool jazz reminds this reviewer of H. M. Tomlinson's remark that "man's fertility can be disquieting; he is so versatile, and yet his energies may be only turbulent restlessness."

AS a jazz historian, Mr. Ulanov, author of "The Incredible Crosby" and "Duke Ellington," is painstaking but rather heavy going. He has little of the vivid ability of, say, Hugues Panassié to characterize musical styles in the stubborn medium of words. One critical flaw is avoided from the outset. Mr. Ulanov makes no foolish attempt at impartiality. He is a man of opinions and he offers them. Quite properly, I think, he plays down the effect of African legacies on jazz in favor of the whole musical amalgam—French, Spanish, Anglo-Saxon, West Indian—which smote a Negro's ears in New Orleans during the nineteenth century. But then Mr. Ulanov proceeds to be patronizing about the New Orleans school—fountainhead of hot music. He does not fail to salute Louis Armstrong, but the attitude toward Jelly Roll Morton, for instance, is pretty cavalier. The fact is that Mr. Ulanov appears to have little feeling for

the intense lyric savor of Jelly Roll and the other New Orleans masters. The ardent instrumental song of jazz, the delicacies, the poignancies, the strident, syncopated poetry issuing from the brass or wooden throats—these achievements of the deep New Orleans tradition do not seem to speak to him. He is a logical, methodological, rather humorless student of jazz, solemnly committed to forwarding the polytonal and atonal movements. He is so solemn about this that it is scarcely surprising to find that one of his key critical demands is "profundity" and that he takes an exalted view of the critic's role. He says in effect that the qualified critic not only knows where his art is going but may even anticipate and inform the artists as to that destination.

Well, the great arid desert of outworn critical writing is white with the bones of critics who have written in that vein. Meanwhile the arts—materials springing from the subconscious into some kind of conscious control—keep on surprising artists and critics alike. I should guess that cool virtuosos like Stan Getz and Bill Harris have no monopoly on the jazz future; that in jazz, as in modern music generally, polytonality and atonality are not the only directions. There would seem to be plenty of room, for example, for various sorts of jazz neoclassicism.

I am glad, however, that Mr. Ulanov has been fighting for his boys. They are very gifted, and he is instructive about them. For me, also, he often fulfills one modest and valuable function of the critic as defined by E. M. Forster: "We can be awakened by a remark which need not be profound or even true, and can be sent scurrying after the beauties and wonders we were ignoring."

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

A History of Jazz in America, by Barry Ulanov. Viking Press, 18 East 48th Street, New York. 382 pp. \$5.00.

Writing at a level somewhere above the heads of those who might be most interested in American jazz, Barry Ulanov proposes the standards of freshness, skill and profundity for judging jazz, which he sees as an art form. There are millions who will not agree with either the standards he would establish or his definition of jazz as an art form. If it is the latter, then one of its greatest exponents, Stan Kenton thinks it is an art form that barely survived the 1940's and will certainly die in the 1950's.

"The thirty-five or forty years of jazz are finished as an era," Kenton says. "We might as well close the door on it. Maybe it should have been closed three or four years ago."

Whether Kenton or Ulanov is right, I am not qualified to say, but Ulanov has written a book to support his contention. It is an interesting book, even to one who is not a devotee of jazz and who did not know a bop from a beep before this history came along. Of necessity, I suppose, Mr. Ulanov had to give a great deal of attention to social movements in the years from Storyville to the rage that was Dizzy Gillespie. But it is just here—in his consideration of social movements—that I think the author goes off the deep end. He tries to make jazz mean too much, both as symbol and expression.

Crunchy Epithet

In the 1920's it was "a symbol and a symptom and a handsomely crunchy epithet with which one could dismiss either the era itself or one group of its volatile citizens."

And then he implies that Menckens, Dos Passos, Sinclair Lewis, T.S. Eliot and colored people were of the groups that could be dismissed by a scornful utterance of the word "Jazz."

Where Mr. Ulanov is on the beam is in the recording of the factual history. It is graphic and dramatic. It comes alive with names everyone knows, with stories only a few know, and with

anecdotes that will certainly become a part of the great body of American folkstuff.

But all this is treated with a grim seriousness that seems to me to go poorly with so light a subject; and with a scholarly appraisal that jazz musicians themselves, if they are to read this book, must repudiate.

To write a scholarly appraisal of a form which is itself so formless, so eclectic and yet so chaotic is like holding a globe of mercury, or trying to, on the cutting edge of a knife.

In five years, Mr. Ulanov will have to write another history of jazz and, if it should live so long, five years after that another.

I am, meantime, glad that I read this book.

Books Published Today

- ADLAI E. STEVENSON OF ILLINOIS: A Portrait, by Noel F. Busch (Farrar, Straus & Young, \$3.75).
BIRDS OF THE ESTUARY, by C. F. Tunnicliffe (Penguin Books, 50 cents). A guide to some English birds.
BROOMTAIL BASIN, by Brett Austin; MEQUITE JOHNNY, by Barry Cord (Arcadia House, \$2.50 each). Novels of the West.
CRUISING, by Peter Heaton (Penguin Books, 85 cents). A guide for yachtsmen.
DEAD MEN'S PLANS, by Mignon G. Eberhart (Random House, \$2.50). A detective story.
EAVESDROPPING ON DEATH, by Carroll Estes (Arcadia House, \$2.50). A detective story.
THE ORIGINS AND HISTORY OF RELIGIONS, by John Murphy, D. D. (Philosophical Library, \$6).
THE SACRED HEART AND MODERN LIFE, by François Charnot, S. J., translated by Kathryn Sullivan, R. S. C. J. (P. J. Kenedy, \$3.50). A book of spiritual guidance.
ENGLAND IN THE LATE MIDDLE AGES, by A. R. Myers (Penguin Books, 75 cents). Volume IV in The Pelican History of England.
JAZZ, by Rex Harris (Penguin Books, 50 cents). An account of

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

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the origin and growth of the jazz music form.

- New Biology 12, edited by M. L. Johnson and M. Abercrombie (Penguin Books, 50 cents). A collection of essays on biology.
SAY IT WITH LOVE, by Emily Noble; SEASON IN PARADISE, by Gay Rutherford; STAR ON THE MOUNTAIN, by Renée Shann. (Arcadia House, \$2.50 each). Novels of romance.
THE LIGHT OF GOD, LOST AND FOUND: A Message of the Second Birth, by Cora Elvy (Exposition, \$2.50). A book of spiritual guidance.
WILLIAM RANDOLPH HEARST: A Portrait in His Own Words, edited by Edmond D. Coblentz (Simon & Schuster, \$3.50).
You've Got It Coming to You: The Guide for Families, Servicemen, Veterans, by Frank Mallen (David McKay, \$3). Information about rights, benefits and privileges in and out of the armed services.
REPRINTS. Fiction: The Adventures of Don Quixote, by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, translated by J. M. Cohen (Penguin Books, \$1.85). Non-fiction: The Pyramids of Egypt, by I. E. S. Edwards (Penguin Books, 65 cents each).

Look lovelier, feel finer this summer!

It's easy to lose weight with THE REDUCER'S COOK BOOK

By Ann Williams-Heller
Wilfred Funk, Inc. Dept. T20
33 West 46th Street, New York 36



About 1922: King Oliver's Creole Jazz Band, a pioneer in hot jazz, (left to right) Johnny Dodds, Baby Dodds, Honore Dutrey, Louis Armstrong, Joe Oliver, W. M. Johnson and pianist Lil Hardin.



About 1935: A recording session with Al Gold, Pee Wee Russell, Dickie Wells and Max Kaminsky—hot musicians who played "New Orleans" and "Chicago" styles.

The Kick Came Out of New Orleans

JAZZ. By Rex Harris. 224 pp. Baltimore: Penguin Books. 50 cents.
By WILDER HOBSON

FACTION is so violent in the world of jazz nowadays that it behooves any commentator on the subject to declare himself at the outset. I seem to be fairly catholic, responding to masters in several schools, from New Orleans pioneering to bebop, from Jelly Roll Morton on the right to Lennie Tristano on the left. I have a strong inclination toward small bands rather than large ones, and a general preference for the hot rather than the cool.

This said, I feel freer to remark that Rex Harris, an Honors Fellow of the British Optical Association and Freeman of the city of London, a consulting optician by profession and a self-styled jazz "purist," has written a lucid, scholarly account of the music with an explicit New Orleans bias. Given that limitation, this is a lot of jazz history for half a dollar. You may learn from it a great deal about "the virile tradition"

of the Crescent City, about its pre-phonographic heroes like Manuel Perez and Buddy Bolden, and its latter-day saints who have kept the torch alight on the Pacific Coast—Lu Watters, Bob Scobey and Turk Murphy. He makes the deep obeisances of the orthodox before Louis Armstrong and Kid Ory.

If you have had only brief contact with jazz outside Mr. Harris' book you may get some peculiar notions about musicians who stray rather far from the waters of Lake Pontchartrain. And about a good many widely exciting players you will hear little or nothing at all. To take just one of many examples, Earl Hines, who for years has been regarded by hosts of people as one of the very greatest syncopators, receives the following brush-off: " * * * there is another style which has been based on the pianistics of Earl Hines, whose attempts to translate Armstrong's trumpet phrasing into an instrument ill-suited for the idiom resulted in its being christened 'trumpet-style.' Hines and

his followers have sacrificed the jazz for the sake of ornament generally speaking." (Italics, Mr. Harris.) I should dearly love to hear Louis Armstrong's comment on that. In short, Mr. Harris covers his wonderful side of the street with zest and literary skill, but seems deaf to many other neighboring attractions. The book is equipped with much useful apparatus, including a map of New Orleans and a chart showing the origins and development of jazz. At first glance this may resemble a blueprint of chaos, but further examination reveals an admirable orderliness. Unfortunately, there is no index.

ANTHROPOLOGIST SAYS WORLD HAS MUCH TO LEARN FROM RACE RELATIONS EXISTING IN BRAZIL

gist continues, "the traditional patterns of race relations present in these rural communities are a rich social heritage from which the world has much to learn."

Beach Dispatch P. 5
Slave and Free Blacks Have Offered Much
To Economic and Cultural Progress of

Oreahona Nation, Oha
WHITES AND BLACKS LIVE IN PEACE
ON AMAZON

2-4-52 8-30-52
By CONRAD CLARK

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y.—(ANP)—Results of an on-the-spot investigation by UNESCO during the past year on race relations in Brazil are reported in the current issue of the UNESCO Courier, a monthly periodical by the organization. Entitled, "A Report on Race Relations in Brazil," the issue deals with such problems as the status of the Negro in Brazil and the attitude of Brazilians toward colored people generally and toward their place in society in particular.

In one of the articles, Dr. Alfred Metraux of the Race Relations Division of UNESCO explains why the organization chose for its study a country like Brazil which is considered to have no urgent racial problems.

Dr. Metraux says that "the existence of countries in which different races live in harmony is itself an important fact capable of exercising a strong influence on racial questions in general.

He also points out that in Brazil, which has been called "a continent within a continent," there are striking contrasts from region to region as well as between the cosmopolitan cities and the small towns and rural homesteads of the interior.

UNESCO's inquiry, which was concerned particularly with attitudes towards the Negro and colored people, extended, therefore, from the Amazon region of the north to the industrial areas of Sao Paulo in the south, and covered varying sections of Brazil ranging in populations living in rural backlands (the sertaos) to members of university circles.

In the report, the Courier introduces an analysis of the place of the Negro in Brazilian history, written by Gilberto Freyre, author of "The Masters and the Slaves," which dealt with the development of the patriarchal society in Brazil.

The writer concludes that "throughout the history of Brazil, the contribution of Negroes, both slave and free, has not only aided Brazil's economic development, but enriched Brazilian cultural life."

The question of race relations in rural Brazil is discussed by Dr. Charles Wagley, professor of anthropology at Columbia university, and Dr. Thalos de Azevedo of The University of Bahia, reports the organization's findings in the great "Negro Metropolis of Bahia," where he concludes, "antagonisms between individuals and groups of different racial stock are reduced to a minimum."

"In the interior of the country (rural Brazil)" Dr. Wagley points out, where more than 70 per cent of Brazil's approximately 50,000,000 people live in towns with fewer than 5,000 inhabitants or on scattered farms and plantations, membership of a social class rather than 'race' is the most important principle governing relations between people.

"On the whole," the anthropolo-

New Author Writes Life of Carver; Illustrator Shares Honor at Fete



HONOR AUTHOR, ILLUSTRATOR—Delta Sigma Theta Sorority of Orangeburg, S. C., honored two of its members with a reception and tea recently in the home of President and Mrs. B. D. Turner of South Carolina State College. Soror Aleathia Lightner Lewis' book, "A True Fairy Tale," the life of George Washington Carver, had just been released. Left to right are Soror Lewis, the author; Trudelle Wimbush, president of Alpha Tau Sigma Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and Gloria Bultman Gore, illustrator of the book.

ORANGEBURG, S. C.—One of America's new authors, Mrs. Aleathia Lightner Lewis, was honored recently at a reception and tea by Alpha Tau Sigma and Alpha Xi chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority in Orangeburg, S. C. Sharing honors also was Mrs. Gloria Bultman Gore, illustrator of the book. Both ladies are members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, residents of Orangeburg, and teach in the public school system.

The tea was held at the home of President and Mrs. Benner C. Turner, of State A. & M. College. President and Mrs. Turner were also in the receiving line with the guests of honor, as was Miss Trudelle Wimbush, president of the graduate chapter of the sorority.

SPRING RELEASE

The book by Mrs. Lewis, which was released for publication this spring, is entitled, "A True Fairy Tale," and is a story of the life of George Washington Carver. It was published by the Christopher Publishing House, Boston.

Mass. dat. 7-26-52
 As guests entered the door, lapel souvenirs made by Soror Ophelia Williams, in crimson and cream, were pinned on. Musical selections by the Delterettes, a pledge group, and a reading by Mrs. Cecil Boykin, preceded the introduction of the guests of honor. Mrs. Lewis had chosen a mauve silk print with natural straw accessories. Mrs. Gore wore a sheer turquoise frock with a black straw hat. The sorority presented them both with orchid corsages.

Books Published Today

AFRICAN FOLKTALES AND SCULPTURE.
Folktales selected and edited by
Paul Radin in collaboration with
Elinore Marvin. Sculpture se-
lected with an introduction by
James Johnson Sweeney (Pan-
theon Books, \$8.50). A volume
in the Bollingen Series.
THE COURTSHIP OF ANNE HATHA-

WAY: A Dramatic Poem, by
Samuel W. Johnson, with ex-
cerpts from the plays and son-
nets of Shakespeare in modern
English (Exposition, \$2.50).

THE RIDDLE OF CANCER, by Charles
Oberling, M. D., translated by
William H. Woglom, M. D.
(Yale University, \$5). A revised
edition of a work first pub-
lished in 1944.

Negro Education: Some Facts And Guesses

The Alabama State Teachers Association has issued its annual yearbook, "Alabama's Negro Schools in 1951-52." It is edited by H. Council Trenholm, able Negro educator. It presents many statistics but few conclusions. Perhaps it was felt that facts speak for themselves.

One interesting fact is that there are far fewer Negro children entering first grade now than was true some years ago. In 1919-20, when the total Negro enrollment through the 11th grade (there was no 12th grade for Negro children until 1924) was 168,358; there were 68,249 in the first grade. In 1950-51, of a total enrollment of 241,498 Negro children, only 38,450 entered the first grade. The greatest number ever to enter first grade in the 31-year period under study was 84,771; that was in the year 1935-36.

Section D
The drop to the low level of 1950-51 is not discussed in the pamphlet. In no other year of the 31 surveyed have as few Negro children entered the first grade in Alabama schools. The highest enrollment of Negro children in all schools in the state came in 1949-50; the number was 242,725, slightly above the level of 1950-51. It had jumped by almost 10,000 over the number in 1948-49, a year which brought to school, age a large number of babies born during the war period. However, the number entering first grade in that year was considerably smaller than it had been a decade before.

*Sum 6 * 29 - 52*
Why these puzzling figures? One explanation comes to mind. The drop in first-grade enrollments, steady for the last 15 years, may be largely the result of migration from the state of young Negro parents with children at or below the first-grade age. Many members of young Negro families, young couples in their 20s or early 30s, have seen a good deal of the world through military service; many have been attracted to the industrial cities of the North.

Another possibility is that in years past, especially in the rural counties, the number of children without any formal schooling has been reduced considerably as school officials required attendance even if the child was overage for the grade. It can be shown by school statistics that in

26b 1952

Dr. Leon Wright Writes New Book On Religion

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Harvard University Press released publication of "Alterations of the Words of Jesus as Quoted in the Literature of the Second Century," a book by Dr. Leon E. Wright, Associate Professor of New Testament at the Howard University School of Religion.

university. Dr. Wright's articles in the field of New Testament have been published in several scholarly sources, including the "London Quarterly" and "Holborn Review."

The book, published as a Harvard Historical Monograph, is the outgrowth of a doctoral study in the area of patristics and textual criticism performed at Harvard in the History and Philosophy of Religion under two noted scholars, Professors Henry J. Cadbury and A. D. Nock.

Submitted to the Department of History, Harvard University, Dr. Wright's manuscript was selected competitively from among several other scholarly entries from both within and outside of Harvard for prize recognition—publication in the distinguished Harvard Historical Monograph Series, incorporating as authors the names of some of Harvard's foremost scholars.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Boston University, whence he received also the master of arts degree, Dr. Wright has received with honors the S. T. B. degree from Harvard Divinity School and the Ph. D. degree from Harvard University. Dr. Wright's articles in the field of New Testament have been published in several scholarly sources, including the "London Quarterly" and "Holborn Review."

Harvard Prints Howard U. Book

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Harvard University press released last week publication of "Alterations of the Words of Jesus as Quoted in the Literature of the Second Century," a book by Dr. Leon E. Wright, associate professor of New Testament at the Howard University School of Religion.

A Phi Beta Kappa graduate from Boston university, whence he received also the master of arts degree, Dr. Wright has received with honors the S. T. B. degree from Harvard Divinity school and the Ph. D. degree from Harvard

Alterations of the Words of Jesus as Quoted in the Literature of the Second Century

26b 1952

BARRON AT THE BALLET

New Book Tells Story of Ballet With Photographs

26b
Call 8.15
"Baron at the Ballet," with
photographs by Baron Nahun and
text by Arnold Haskell, is the July
selection of the Seven Arts Book
Society. *P. 18*

This superb volume of camera
studies has captured perfectly the
beauty and plastic grace of the
world's greatest performers as
they interpret the world's finest
ballets. *Kansas City*

The accompanying text by Has-
kell internationally famous dance
historian, discusses all modern
schools of the ballet and evaluates
their achievements. *Orville*

PLATTER CHATTER

by Fred Reynolds

THE LATEST RELEASE in Columbia's monumental "Golden Era" series, a series devoted to historical jazz figures, is "The Bessie Smith Story." Here on four 12 inch LPs or in four six-record 45 r. p. m. albums is the musical story of Bessie Smith, incomparable Empress of the Blues. As with Columbia's "Louis Armstrong Story," this colossal work is meant to include the greatest recordings Bessie ever made. But, as with Armstrong, it just isn't possible to include all—or even half—the great Bessie Smith's. These four sets do, however, comprise a solid cross section of a superb artist's best work.



Bessie Smith

IN THE FIRST VOLUME of "The Bessie Smith Story," her chief accompanist is a young cornetist then with the Fletcher Henderson orchestra, Louis Armstrong. "Blues To Barrelhouse," the second volume, is a potpourri of distinctive styles, ranging from the vintage 1924 "Weeping Willow Blues," to a 1933 session with a group that included Jack Teagarden, Chu Berry, and Benny Goodman. One of the superior periods in Bessie's recording career is spanned by volume three, which features accompaniments by Joe Smith and by Fletcher Henderson's Hot Six. Here is Bessie's first electrically recorded master, "Cake Walking Babies." Pianist James P. Johnson and Trombonist Charlie Green are highlighted with Bessie in volume four.

Volume Part 2, p. 14
THE BESSIE SMITH STORY" was produced and edited by George Avakian, noted jazz authority and historian, and to him should go all possible credit. But I cannot help commending the Columbia engineers. Their work in cleaning up the quality of these ancient disks is magnificent to a point of amazement.

Cherry 200 Mon. 1-14-52
IN HIS COVER STORY, Avakian points out: "Another singer of Bessie's artistic stature in the jazz and blues field will not emerge, simply because it is socially and economically impossible for the necessary development to take place. No part of the American public big enough to matter can produce one, or even wants one. Only among the best three or four contemporary Negro religious singers can you find voices comparable to Bessie's. She has passed to the jazz collectors, folklorists, and just plain people of sound artistic judgment, of whom there are always more but never enough."*Mon. 1-14-52*

SOON AFTER Bessie Smith died in 1937, John Hammond wrote your finest recommendation to these records: "To my way of thinking, Bessie Smith was the greatest artist American jazz ever produced; in fact, I'm not so sure that her art did not reach beyond the limits of the term 'jazz.' She was one of those rare beings, a completely integrated artist capable of projecting her whole personality into music. She was blessed not only with a great emotion, but with a tremendous voice that could penetrate the inner recess of the listener."

Reynolds on Records, broadcast nightly on W-G-N, 8:05 to 8:30.

"The Black Boy Of Atlanta"

Book Written By Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes Now Placed on the Market for Distribution and Sale. Another Edinboro publication which is now offered to the reading public, is titled "The Black Boy Of Atlanta." It was written by Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes, a former member of Fisk University faculty in this city and who now resides in New York City.

In publicizing the appearance of the book in a four-page circular, the front of it carries the likeness of the late Major Richard Robert Wright, the subject of the book, who for many years was the president of the state school down in Savannah, Ga., and later on organized the Citizens Southern Bank in Philadelphia, Pa. He was the father of the late Bishop Wright.

The subject of the book, as well as the author, are known nationally. Rev. Henry A. Boyd, who received a letter and announcement, said: "I have known all of them for more than a half century, and my father, the late R. H. Boyd, worked with Major Wright for many years."

BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

September 11

The life story of Major R. R. Wright is told in "The Black Boy of Atlanta" by Elizabeth Ross Haynes. A man of varied talents, Major Wright achieved eminence during his life time as educator, politician, newspaperman, and man of business. Mrs. Haynes traces the events of his life in some detail, but seldom goes far below the surface to show us her subject as an individual.

Born a slave, Richard Wright was to overcome the handicap of humble birth as well as the physical weakness of a small frail body. When he died at the age of ninety-two, he had made a name

for himself by his dogged perseverance and his ability to make the most of every opportunity. A strict disciplinarian, and a man of strong determination, he raised a family of eight children.

Major Wright taught school in a number of small Georgia towns before being called to Savannah to head the Georgia State Industrial College there. He left Georgia and founded a bank in Philadelphia after one of his daughters had been treated rudely in the Savannah bank. He had earlier been appointed U. S. Postmaster by President McKinley and made a major in the U. S. Army.

There are a good many facts concerning Major Wright's life and work in "The Black Boy of Atlanta" but they are not organized as well as they might be. There are a number of unnecessary errors in proper names as with Havannah for Havana, Cuba. Mrs. Haynes' style lacks smoothness and tends to wordiness and repetition. Until a better biography of R. R. Wright appears, however, hers does have the merit of presenting the reading public the life of an unusual man.

"The Black Boy of Atlanta" by Elizabeth Ross Haynes; House of Edinboro; 21 Edinboro Street; Boston, Mass.; 1952; \$3.00

ENDORSES "THE BLACK BOY OF ATLANTA"



Jack Blumstein, vice president of Blumstein Department Store, Inc., New York City, heartily endorses Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes' recent and scholarly book "The Black Boy of Atlanta" while Julius A. Adams, editor of Global News Syndicate, Inc., New York City, and Carl Lawrence, newspaper reporter, and president of the Georgia State College Club of New York, share the spirit of the occasion. The book tells the story of the late Major Richard Robert Wright, who was founder and president of the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company of Philadelphia, and first president of Georgia State College in Savannah. Proceeds from the book will go for business scholarships in the name and honor of Major Wright.



BIOGRAPHY OF A GREAT MAN. — Jack Blumstein, vice president of Blumstein Department store, Inc., New York City, heartily endorses Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes' recent and scholarly book "The Black Boy" of Atlanta" while Julius J. Adams, editor of Global News Syndicate, Inc., New York City, and Carl Lawrence, newspaper reporter and president of the Georgia State College club of New York, share the

spirit of the occasion. The book tells the story of the late Major Richard Robert Wright, member of the local as well as who was founder and president of the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust company of Philadelphia, and first president of Georgia State College in Savannah. Proceeds from the book will go for business scholarships in the name and honor of Major Wright.

Wright Biography Funds To Go To Scholarships

By JUNE L'RHUE

They have one son, George E. Haynes Jr., New York State Parole Officer.

NEW YORK (GLOBAL) — All the profit from "The Black Boy of Atlanta" an inspirational and scholarly 237-page biography of the late Major Richard Robert Wright, will be used for business scholarships for American youths, irrespective of race, creed or color. Mrs. Elizabeth Ross Haynes, author, said this week.

Published early in January by the House of Edinboro, Boston, Mass., the work tells the stirring life story of Major Wright who at 13, was proclaimed by the poet, Whittier, as "The Black boy of Atlanta," and who was the first president of Georgia State College of Savannah; founder and president of the Citizens and Southern Bank and Trust Company of Philadelphia; and appointed by President McKinley as Minister Plenipotentiary of Liberia.

Mrs. Haynes is the author of two other books, "Unsung Heroes" Du Bois and Dill Publishers, (New York, 1921); and "Negroes in Domestic Service in the United States," published by the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., (Washington, D.C., 1923).

Dollar-A-Year Woman

The personable, charming, and versatile author, who was born on a farm in the heart of the Black Belt of Alabama, has demonstrated intellectual abilities in several other fields. She was formerly a high school teacher both in Galveston, Texas and St. Louis, Mo. During World War I, she traveled as a "Dollar a Year Woman" of the Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, Washington.

Mrs. Haynes has traveled over the United States as National Student Secretary of the YWCA. She has served energetically as a member of the local as well as the National YWCA. She is a member of the National Association of Colored Women, the V. F. W., the League for Industrial Democracy, and the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. She is president and treasurer of the 282 Convent Avenue Corporation, Inc., and works with the program of Seifert Research Library, New York City.

Mrs. Haynes is the wife of Dr. George E. Haynes, former director of the Department of Race Relations of the Federal Council of Churches (now known as the National Council of Churches).

A Medico in the Fear-Filled Jungle

James P. H.
BOLAHUN: An African Adventure
By Werner Junge. Translated from
the German by Basil Creighton.
Illustrated. 248 pp. New York:
G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$3.75.

By JOHN BARKHAM

FOR all its thin veneer of civilization, Liberia's hinterland is still primeval Africa, matted by dense forests and laced by impassable rivers. Some areas have never been trodden by human foot or even seen by human eyes. From the capital city of Monrovia to the Kongwa Forest is no more than 250 miles, yet to traverse it is like passing from the twentieth century into pre-history.

Our restless age will change all that, of course, and probably soon; but when Dr. Werner Junge arrived at Bolahun, in up-country Liberia, some twenty years ago, many of the Negroes had never seen a white man before. Junge was a young medico who had come out from his native Germany to establish a medical service at an American mission station in the jungle.

Like Dr. McCord, the American medical missionary who built a hospital for Zulus in South Africa, Dr. Junge found himself battling not only disease but ignorance, prejudice, fear and nature as well. Bolahun was a tiny island of civilization in the vast green ocean of the bush. This was darkest Africa in the harshest sense of the word. Patients were afraid to come to him lest they antagonize their witch doctors, medicines and instruments were scarce, many diseases were endemic. And, to cap everything, the nature threw the book at him, including an invasion by driver ants that ate their way clear through the hospital.

Yet Dr. Junge survived all this and established the first successful medical service in the history of northern Liberia. He cured hundreds of patients crippled by the prevalent diseases of yaws and gonorrhea, single-handedly conquered a 300-case smallpox epidemic and then vaccinated 18,000 natives, set up an island hospital for lepers at Massateen that paid

for itself in crops grown by the happy ending. The forest has reclaimed its own, and the tall elephant grass now grows over the ruins at Massateen.

How did he do it? Dr. Junge is a reticent German who tells you almost nothing about himself. He prefers to record the facts. But the truth is easy to read between his laconic lines. Besides being a skilled surgeon, he was a man of enormous courage and self-reliance, qualities which Africa demanded. He permits himself one revealing sentence: "In Africa your utmost strength is not enough to exhaust all the possibilities of life; in Europe your strength is exhausted before it is possible to live at all."

Africa was never able to exhaust Werner Junge. Having carved out medical stations in the forest, he built a new hospital at Mount Pleasant on the coast (mostly with his own hands), persuaded Negro mothers to exchange their dangerous midwives for his maternity wards, and trained native staffs to go out into the jungle on healing missions.

All this he was able to do because he mastered the native languages, learned the native ways and won the confidence of the natives themselves. He grew to understand their thinking on such things as magic, morals and behavior, and even came to look with a tolerant eye on their practice of polygamy as the only workable system in a society where females habitually outnumbered males.

It was a massive piece of pioneering, this, although you might never suspect it from the casual, matter-of-fact tone of Dr. Junge's story. Like most of us who have come to know Africa, he fell under its spell, brought his wife out to Liberia to help him, raised his children there and prepared to labor for the natives till he died.

But Hitler decreed otherwise. With the abruptness of a lash on his back, Dr. Junge received an order to return to Germany in 1940. Today he practices medicine in Stuttgart and dreams of Bolahun, for this is an African story without a

The Savage

CONSIDERING how dubious we may well feel of the correctness of our own views of life, we have no right, it seems to me, to look down with contempt on the savage. Would it not be better to pocket our pride and to recognize that we and they are human beings who, after going our separate ways for thousands of years, have suddenly come face to face again?—"Bolahun."

Now a resident New Yorker, Mr. Barkham has traveled extensively in the once-Dark Continent.

Portrait Of A Negro Novelist

Unknown eight years ago, Frank Yerby is today the most popular author in the United States. The 38-year-old Negro, profiled in the current issue of PEOPLE TODAY, has written seven best sellers since 1945, which have sold 8 million copies, plus another 2 million when 3 were reprinted as 25-cent and 35-cent books.

Born in Augusta, Ga., Yerby attended Haines Institute and Paine College there, got his Master's from Fisk U. and studied at the U. of Chicago. Little magazines published his first poetry in '33. He taught English at Southern U. in Baton Rouge, married in 1940 and moved to N. Y. where he worked for the Tanger Aircraft Corp. during the war. His short story, "Health Card," won an O. Henry award in '44 and paved the way for his first novel.

Yerby's historical novels usually take the conventional picture of an era or a place, but they are documented with material ordinarily left out of history books. He believes that both highbrows and lowbrows can enjoy the same book for different reasons. Presumably highbrows can read his novels for their history and lowbrows will learn a little history while following the love stories. Actually no such division of readers seems necessary. It's doubtful he'd lose any readers if he treated the emotional life of his characters with the care and intelligence he devotes to historical research, or to his fast-moving adventure narratives.

Yerby, who has four children, lives quietly in his handsomely redecorated Jackson Heights home and continues to work methodically. He puts in up to 6 hours a day of library research, and up to 18 writing. Each year he vacations in Mexico, reports PEOPLE TODAY.

Frank Yerby Named Most Noted Author

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Frank Yerby, Fisk Graduate, Writer Of Best-sellers

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8 Million Copies Of Yerby's Novels Sold Since '45

NEW YORK—Unknown eight years ago, 38-year-old Frank Yerby's historical novels usual author in the U.S. profiled in the current issue of "People Today." He has written seven best sellers since 1945, which have sold 8 million copies, plus another 2 million when 3 were reprinted as 25 and 35-cent books.

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Brownie Scott

June 22-52

Book Off Press

NEW YORK — The "Brownie Scout Handbook," an attractive illustrated book for children is off the press. It is the first book of its kind published by the Girl Scouts of America in the last forty years, Brownie Scout Handbook, Girl Scouts of the U. S. A., .50c, New York, N. Y.). It was written by Ray Mitchell, Brownie Scout advisor, and illustrated by Ruth Wood, artist. *Wood P. 5*

Beane, G.
The 96 pages of the book are filled with information and pictures, showing interracial groups of Brownies. Although slanted for children from 7 to 9 years old, it is also of interest to adults who work with children's groups in churches, schools and clubs.

Success Story

RALPH J. BUNCHE: Fighter for Peace. By J. Alvin Kugelmass. 174 pp. New York: Julian Messner. \$2.75. *Times Book*

RALPH J. BUNCHE'S life is the kind of success story Americans like. To the childhood hardships of hand-to-mouth poverty and the shadows of back streets was added the early sorrow of his parents' deaths. Yet even as a young boy his brilliance was recognized. In college he fulfilled the promise his high school classmates had seen in him, and in the State Department years later, and in the United Nations he justified the recognition he had won as a student and teacher. When he handled the negoti-



Ralph Bunche.

tations between the Arabs and the Jews for the Special Committee of the United Nations only people unfamiliar with the pattern of his early life could have doubted the outcome of the negotiations. *P. 20*

Mr. Kugelmass has written a short, tentative and apparently hurried biography of the winner of the 1950 Nobel Peace Prize. He has told the story in an expository, matter-of-fact style. Even so the story of Ralph Bunche commands attention.

ARNA BONTEMPS.

Book Tells Rise Of Dr. Bunche

BOOK TELLS RISE of Bunche ... By Gladys P. Graham for ANP

RALPH J. BUNCHE—FIGHTER FOR PEACE. By Alvin Kugelmass. Julian Messner, Inc., 175 pages. Price \$2.75. *P. 17*

Dr. Ralph Johnson Bunche, director of the department of trusteeship, United Nations is the subject of a biography of a scholar, statesman, diplomat in the affairs of men and educators.

J. Alvin Kugelmass, the author, traces the steps of the gifted Dr. Bunche from his adolescence as an orphan at the age of 12 to his adulthood and noted contributions (Nobel Peace Prize) up to 1952).

Dr. Bunche's grandmother, who reared him, stressed the point that with God there was no black or white. *Oct 12-6-52*

Young Bunche had no easy bed to rest his head, but fought his way up by sheer diligence and application.

A social scientist, Dr. Bunche is a living example of the fact that the Negro, all things being equal, can hold his own on both sides of the Atlantic.

Kugelmass is to be lauded for this simply written, but dynamic account which both adults and children may read, digest and be proud of the subject matter and content therein.

Behind the Plate

ROY CAMPANELLA. By Dick Young. 184 pp. Most Valuable Player Series. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. \$2.50.

YOGI BERRA. By Joe Trimble. 184 pp. Most Valuable Player Series. New York: A. S. Barnes & Co. \$2.50.

For Ages 12 to 16.

THE two catchers who won the "Most Valuable Player" awards in their respective leagues in 1951 are, unlike many ball players, interesting both as athletes and personalities. Roy Campanella, the Brooklyn Dodger backstop, is one of the warmest, most likable men to reach the big leagues since Lou Gehrig. But any suspicion that he's a soft opponent is dispelled by this account of his career and, more specifically, by his personal "duster ball" play for picking men off third.

Though also warm and gregarious, Yogi Berra of the Yankees is more celebrated for other aspects of his personality—manifested by his liking for comic books and double-feature Westerns. But on the field, as his records show and as sports-writers are so fond of pointing out, he is a genius (unpolished variety). This reader nominates Yogi as the most even-tempered American for his behavior in the face of those constant and so clever remarks by sportswriters and players about his appearance.

W. C. F.

26b 1952

CARVER'S GEORGE

CARVERS' GEORGE

By Florence Crannell Means
Illustrated by Harve Stein

26b
One dark night a slave boy and his mother were stolen from a farm. The child who was sickly was thrown away by his kidnapers. He was brought up by the Carver family as one of their own children. This is the biography of George Washington Carver who became one of America's foremost botanists. Ages 8-12. \$2.50.

Education Group Decides To Use Disputed Textbook

Alabama's top education policy-makers agreed yesterday to let a disputed 12th grade textbook be used in the public schools provided certain revisions are made.

They approved "The Challenge of Democracy" on condition that one chapter dealing with minority groups and segregation be scrapped entirely, and other changes made elsewhere in the book.

Representatives of the publishing company promised a decision by 4:30 p.m. tomorrow on whether the firm can revise the book as suggested by the State Board of Education.

N. A. Neal, an editor for the McGraw-Hill Book Co., which owns the copyright for the textbook, said that because of technical problems in making the changes, the decision would have to be made by higher-ups in his company.

McGraw-Hill representatives met with a sub-committee of the state textbook committee last night in an effort to revise chapter 28 which aroused the ire of Gov. Gordon Persons and other board members.

Persons wrote a letter to the textbook committee recommending that the textbook be taken off the approved list in Alabama unless that chapter were deleted.

He said one of Alabama's better known educators reviewed the book for him and found it otherwise acceptable.

Chapter 28, he said, is "devoted almost entirely to pointing out why segregation should be abolished and praising the FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission)."

"I know of no one who treasures southern tradition who will ever agree to the breakdown of our segregation laws and to acceptance of the principles of FEPC," the Governor wrote.

Noting that the chapter heading was "minority groups should share equally with all others in the American way of life," board member Charlie Dobbins of Montgomery said he didn't see how the board could throw it out.

He said most of the information was based on historical facts which should not be withheld from school students.

Asst. Atty. Gen. William N. McQueen, legal adviser to Gov. Persons, sat in the meeting as the governor's representative.

He observed that such things as "lynchings" and friction between the races are adequately covered in the daily press and have no place in a textbook of this kind.

Dobbins moved that the book be approved with the other revisions already agreed on by the editors and members of the State Textbook Committee, but couldn't get a second for his motion.

Board Member William Hodo of Alexander City then offered a motion to keep the book on the adopted list provided chapter 28 is taken out and the other revisions made. It passed by voice vote.

Here are some of the sections (on Negro problems) in the controversial chapter which the sub-committee wanted re-written or knocked out:

"He (the Negro) lacks basic things like good food, clothing and decent shelter..."

"Besides, he is too often the last to be hired and the first to be fired."

"But that right (voting) is denied in some states by the poll tax."

Another passage quoting an imaginary student said "If I were a Negro—segregation would offend my dignity and pride."

Publishers To Delete Chapter In Textbook

Publishers of a disputed textbook on American Democracy agreed yesterday to knock out a chapter on segregation and revise other sections to meet Alabama's specifications.

And they promised delivery of the first 3,000 books by July 15, said Dr. W. J. Terry, state school superintendent, after a long distance telephone conversation with a company official.

Terry said the McGraw-Hill Book Co. expressed willingness to "go along with 100 per cent" on the changes suggested by members of the State Board of Education yesterday.

The Challenge of Democracy

Strip-Teasing Textbooks

Alabama seems to be plunging down the road of strip-tease censorship. The Birmingham Real Estate Board a few days ago raised a howl over certain passages and chapters in a high school textbook entitled, "The Challenge of Democracy." Soon it was joined by the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce.

The State Board of Education met and discussed the objections raised by the textbook critics. Governor Gordon Persons went even further than the Board and the Chamber. He seems to have read the textbook in the light of his political thinking. He appeared to be more concerned about preserving "tradition" and by promulgating the truth.

Around the table sat the agents of the condemned textbook in question, the textbook selectors and the members of the Board of Education to work out a "compromise" of revisions and deletions. Thus it would seem that the textbook authors are willing to yield the integrity of their work to suit irrational ideologies and the rattle of dollars.

Textbooks, especially history, have usually ignored the part Negro people have played in the development and protection of this country. Others have been charged with "libeling" the Negro people. History textbooks used in Southern public schools are still a record of omissions and distortions with regard to Negro people.

Textbook committees in Alabama exclude Negro membership. So does the State Board of Education. The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and the Birmingham Real Estate Board follow this pattern. Thus one can see who is talking and finding fault with a textbook which seeks to recognize the existence of the United States as a total rather than as one region and one racial segment.

The unit of the book most strenuously objected to by Governor Persons dealt with human relations. This chapter is a balanced, sober, objective presentation of material which should be taught, we believe. Where better can one do such learning and at what more appropriate starting point than in our high schools? Politicians have often gabbled about education as the basis for improving human beings and their relationship to each other. This textbook-purging started by Alabama is a direct and savage repudiation of this argument. Alabama now seems to be converting a textbook selection committee into a textbook censorship committee. The right to know is tied up with the right to be taught and the opportunity to learn. Freedom of textbooks is part of the freedom of the press.

Better it would be, must we say, to ban the whole textbook than gut it for use in our public schools. A demand is made not merely for revisions but for removal of vital sections from the book which would denature it. To rip out certain chapters in "The Challenge of Democracy" and leave the pages missing would be an occult form of book-burning by deletion. Burning is merely one method of censorship. Deletions such as requested by Alabama is crude, clumsy, streamlined, piecemeal book-burning.

Textbook publishers should shudder at the peril which lies in the censorship action of the Alabama Board of Education and the ominous consequence which lurks ahead. Should the textbook industry yield to either ignorance or injurious prejudice for the sake of a few dollars its integrity would likely suffer. Censorship could spread so fast that the textbook industry would be endangered. Involved in this question are the issues of censorship on the one hand and the perversion of the textbook industry

on the other hand.

The Montgomery Advertiser has had the courage and the enlightenment to discuss the bedrock issues in the textbook controversy. It pointed out, in part, on May 28:

"Censorship is more dangerous than any book, for the censor assumes that the people haven't any sense."

Knowing the facts about the American melting pot seems to be a source of danger in Alabama. A grand mess has been made about a textbook that probably will be more widely read in its fullness because of the censorship than would have been the case otherwise. Probably somebody will suggest that the Star-Spangled Banner be blue-penciled because it mentions "the land of the free and the home of the brave." For that might put ideas in somebody's head about "freedom."

BIXIE SPEAKS

Editor's note: This is the second in a series of editorials reprinted from leading college newspapers in the South, discussing the question of mixed schools.

The following, DEMOCRACY CHALLENGES SUPREMACY MYTH, appeared in "The Phoenix," college paper at Our Lady Of The Lake College, San Antonio, Tex.

By ODILIA JACQUES

"Separate but equal facilities" those who may one day tell him is the battle cry of the advocates of segregation in education. Such supporters of white supremacy somehow miss the point that by the very fact of any segregation, education becomes unequal.

Court case after court case has exploded the theory of "separate but equal."

How could any state claim that the facilities were equal in a law school conveniently set up overnight to nullify the request of a colored student seeking admittance into the University of Texas (Sweatt vs Painter).

The absurdity of such a claim can be seen when one considers how a make-shift law school would compare with a big university in research facilities, faculty prestige and experience, and even school prominence.

How can North Carolina claim the equality of a dual system of education when its Wilmington colored schools still boast of a "equality" such as denial of hot meals solely because of race (The Courier, 1951), lack of cafeterias, inadequate classrooms, and out-houses?

How can Mississippi even hope to defend any equality case when it pays \$122.74 per white pupil as compared with \$26.81 per colored pupil, annually, for education?

Artificial Society

Even if facilities were equal, the very idea of creating an artificial society in education is not only against the fundamental right of man to associate with his fellowman, but also preposterous.

In everyday life, the colored man does not take a separate side of the road, or buy his clothes in a different store. Why then must he get his knowledge in a different building?

Today we are trying to prove to the rest of the world exactly what Democracy means, yet what argument can we possibly use to support our way of life when in 17 out of 48 States, 3,850,000 colored citizens are considered not good enough to sit in the same classrooms with white students?

When it comes time to pass out the guns that will defend all Americans, there is no white supremacy. The colored GI. wears the same uniform, fights the

same battles, sheds the same red blood as his white buddies.

He risks his life to protect even those who may one day tell him he is not "equal" enough to enjoy identical educational facilities.

One of the most amazing examples of irony in our way of life is the fact that some of the very institutions which daily expound the doctrine of "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal," deny the right of some of these "men created equal" to learn the meaning of the phrase beside the white citizen.

Good Examples

With the entry of colored students into the graduate schools of some of our southern states, and the very fine example set forth by the Armed Forces during the past ten years, the line that marks America as a hypocritical nation is beginning to be erased.

When the legislatures of Texas and other segregating states look beyond the brownness of the skin to see the dignity of a human soul and the intelligence of a human mind, the word DEMOCRACY then—and only then—will have true meaning.

Textbook Confusion Continued In State

By EMORY O. JACKSON

Alabama textbook censorship controversy is due to land in Circuit Court in Montgomery, Alabama this week.

An "anonymous group of interested persons" represented by Attorney S. Palmer Keith, Jr., are scheduled to seek an injunction to prevent "A Challenge of Democracy" (local news stories in the daily press have erroneously listed the title "Challenge TO Democracy") from being used as a textbook for the twelfth grade in Alabama public schools.

Some months back the Birmingham Real Estate Board and The Young Men's Business Club attacked the book for its alleged "socialistic leaning." The Birmingham Chamber of Commerce soon joined in protest with the board. Gov. Gordon Persons disagreed with some matter in the textbook creating racial relations.

The State Board of Education following the condemning protest against the book, met and readopted it after the publishers agreed to make some deletions and revisions.

Strong protest against the position taken by the board, the chamber and the Governor was leveled by the Regional Office of the N. A. A. C. P. and several of its branches. The Alabama State Colored Funeral Directors Association on June 20 in convention in Phenix City approved and sent this telegram to authorities: "Intelligent Negro citizens of Alabama ask you to reconsider your decision to delete chapter 28 from Challenge of Democracy, State textbook. We believe that racial understanding in Alabama has reached the stage where such a chapter will be revealing and educational."

"Chapter 28" of the book has a section entitled, "Minorities Should Share American Way of Life." This chapter drew the particular fire of Gov. Persons. "Chapter 27" was also objectionable. McGraw-Hill Publishing Company agreed to re-edit about 50 pages of the textbook and to eliminate some other portions of it.

Now the "interested persons" are going to court seeking to prevent the revised, re-edited, re-factored textbook from being used on "the angriest opposition against housing grounds that the textbook committee which approved the book fought vigorously the Tuxedo low-cost housing project and is waging

was not legally organized.' The State Board of Education and the McGraw-Hill Publishing Company will be named as defendants.

In a lengthy editorial, The Montgomery Advertiser-Alabama Journal which has carried the editorial fights against textbook censorship, August 10, commented in part: "The book-burners have turned to attack obliquely. They will now contend that the state committee which contracted to buy the book was not legally organized and that the bonds for the delivery of the books were not properly posted by the publishers."

"This of course is mere pettifoggery. The issue is still censorship. As we previously pointed out, after reading THE CHALLENGE OF DEMOCRACY, the book is a competent attempt to present tensions of the various ideologies in the world today. It pictures quite graphically the swirling currents of thought, prejudice and wisdom that is America today. Many of the points touched upon in the book, and dealt with as objectively as complex matters of the kind can be, are issues in the current political debate."

"The objections raised so far to the book have been largely sentences or paragraphs pulled out of context."

"No book in print today, not excluding the Bible, would survive uncut if every little group deleted the part offensive to it. If you are looking for evil as the Birmingham book-burners are doing, you will find it everywhere. Facts because they are frequently unpleasant, will always be the target of the censors. The objections raised by the Birmingham Real Estate Board illustrated to what absurd extremes this can be carried."

The Advertiser-Journal concludes:

"Censorship simply does not work. It can never work until civilization has reached that stage of ultimate perfection where problems remain, all theories are proven, all questions are answered, and all human desires and dreams are satisfied. And when that day dawns we don't care to be around."

all-out against the federally-aided housing program. Housing has been an issue of human tension in Birmingham. The race issue is shrewdly and unshamedly raised in the textbook censorship issue as originally raised by the real estate interest, and later sharpened by Governor Persons in his observations and objections.

COMMUNIST LINE

In a brief presented to the Subversives Activities Control Board in support of forcing communists to register under the McCarran Act the Department of Justice declared that the Communist Party in this country "never knowingly has deviated" from the Kremlin's views and policies but has stuck to the principles of Marxism and Leninism.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Oct. 1 - 19-52

"The Changed Political Thought of the Negro (1915-1940)" by Elbert Lee Tatum is a timely book for an election year. It is unfortunate that the general quality of the book does not match its timeliness. The author has concentrated on the historical background for the shift of the Negro voter from the Republican Party and has given relatively scant space to the years mentioned in the title of his book.

Dr. Tatum dates the beginning of a considerable change in the Negro vote from the 1928 election when Al Smith, the Happy Warrior, on the Democratic ticket opposed Republican Herbert Hoover. Smith's record as Governor of New York and his strong opposition to the Klan stood him in good stead with the Negro whereas there was doubt as to Hoover's views and his wooing of the lily-white southern Republican delegations brought added distrust.

With Roosevelt and the New Deal the trend became a landslide and the Negro voter found himself strongly Democratic. It seems to me that the author might easily have extended the limit of the period his book covers another decade.

As the book now stands, there is little new brought to the subject. The historical background might have been sketched in very quickly in the early pages . . . and the remainder of the book devoted to the changed political thought of the Negro.

In several instances Dr. Tatum makes statements that are not in accordance with the facts when he states that the southern whites sought to re-

gain control of local government because they saw "the folly of committing the government into the hands of people incapable of running it efficiently due to lack of training and experience." He is referring to the inexperience of the Negro, but the whites sought the power in order to reestablish their domination of the region and to disfranchise the Negro.

Dr. Tatum's style is wordy and at times repetitious. His book falls short of covering its subject adequately.

"The Changed Political Thought of the Negro (1915-1940)" by Elbert Lee Tatum; The Exposition Press; New York City; 1951; \$3.00.

"We, The American People"

"We, The American People," by Marguerite Ann Stewart, takes brief but remarkably thorough looks at various groups who make up the population of this country. There are chapters on Spanish-speaking Americans, Negro-Americans, Jewish-Americans, and Americans from England, Ireland, Germany, Italy, and China. There are also chapters on prejudice and a concluding one called Strengthening Our Democracy.

In each section Miss Stewart weaves in stories of individuals of the particular group she is discussing with a general statement of the history and present status of the group in this country. The chapter on the Negro is very well done and gives an idea of the handicaps Negroes face as well as an impression of the way in which many have overcome them.

The book is written primarily for young people of high school age but since the author does not write down to them it should find a much wider audience.

"We, The American People," by Marguerite Ann Stewart; The John Day Company, 62 W. 45th St., New York City; 1951.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Oct. 1 - 19-52

Margery Finn Brown has written an unpretentious, surprising-

ly good book about Japan during the occupation in "Over A Bamboo Fence" by Margery Finn Brown, the wife of a colonel in the American Army, travelled to Japan with their four daughters to spend a period of two years. Friendly and interested in all around her, she became a correspondent for a Japanese newspaper in order to see and learn more.

The author did succeed in meeting a wide variety of people and in seeing a good many cities. The Browns first lived in Tokyo where getting settled in a home offered fantastic difficulties. Later they moved to Kyoto where they lived in a large home in Teapot Alley, a crowded street whose teeming life surrounded them on all sides.

Mrs. Brown recounts her experiences in an informal, chatty style but for the most part draws no conclusions for her readers. She tells of the overwhelming poverty of the masses of the people, the rigid social code which they follow which makes it difficult to judge their sincerity, the varying American attitudes to the Japanese, their treatment of children, the geisha girls, etc., etc. She came to know prostitutes, housewives, a former member of a Japanese suicide squad and many, many others, who come to life in her book.

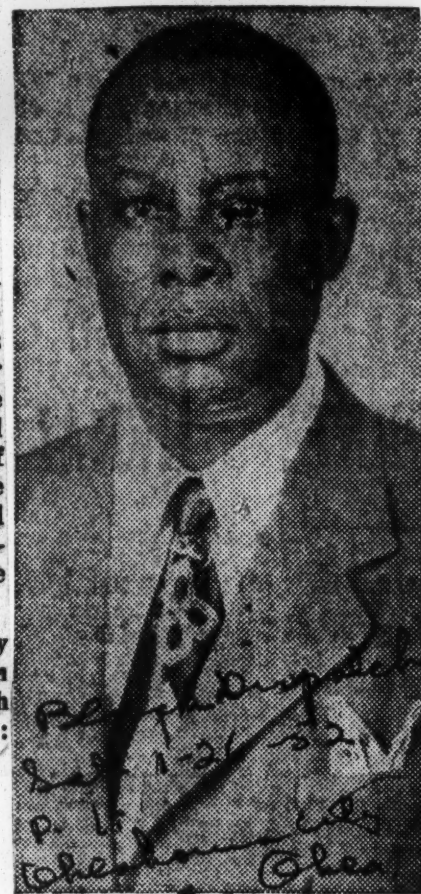
Japanese women in the Gengi Club of which Mrs. Brown was a member were curious about the United States and its treatment of Negroes among many other things. One said, "I think it may be difficult for Americans feel democratic with people of another race." Another added, "Here in Japan, the Americans use our

best houses, theatres, trains, hospitals, hotels, but they don't want to meet us . . ."

Mrs. Brown herself believes that it would be a mistake to attempt to make over Japan in the American image since because of the great differences in tradition, climate and history.

"Over A Bamboo Fence" despite its light touch has a disquieting undertone. Mrs. Brown is a careful observer and neither conquered nor conquerors have records to be completely proud of in her eyes. The future of Japan is tied up closely with the future peace of the world and this unassuming book offers considerable insight into the people and customs of that country.

"Over A Bamboo Fence" by Margery Finn Brown; William Morrow and Company, 425 Fourth Avenue, New York 16, N. Y.; 1951; \$3.50



Elbert Lee Tatum, who has written THE CHANGE POLITICAL THOUGHT OF THE NEGRO 1915-1940 which will be published by Exposition Press of New York on January 14 for \$3.00. Mr. Tatum traces the growth of the political importance of the American Negro and their gradual recognition by the politicians.

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

The Changed Political Thought of the Negro, 1915-1940, by Elbert Lee Tatum. Exposition Press, 386 Fourth Ave., N.Y. 205 pp. \$3.00.

Recently this section carried a review of Henderson Donald's **The Negro Freedman**, a study of Afro-Americans in the years after the Civil War. Now comes a book which surveys colored political thought from 1915 to 1940.

It is quite appropriate that these two books should come so close together. And one can only wish that Tatum's work were as sound and reliable as Donald's.

Historians seem in agreement that, except for the determinate years of slavery's beginning (1650-1730), the days of Reconstruction and the years from the first World War to the second are the most important eras in the history of the American colored man.

Dr. Tatum's book is more specialized and limited than Dr. Donald's. It deals exclusively though not very thoroughly, with the colored man's political thought and action.



Mr. Redding

That the colored race has grown in political importance since 1925 is an undisputed fact attested by the care both major parties take to campaign for its vote; but that the colored man's political strength is anywhere decisive on men and issues of national consequence is doubtful.

A Grand Illusion

Indeed, it is a grand illusion which colored people have harbored and fostered for years, and perhaps to the diminishment of such strength as they do have.

Henry Lee Moon's study indicated this and now Dr. Tatum's book indicates it further. This is the outstanding contribution that **The Changed Political Thought of the colored race** makes.

Unfortunately, though, Professor Tatum has dealt in serious errors both of omission and commission. His bibliography is glaringly, pitifully weak. Though his study encompasses the years from 1915, fourteen of the thirty items listed as primary sources antedate the period of the study by half a century.

Dr. Tatum seems never to have heard of Henry Lee Moon, whose

investigation of the colored man's political behavior is considered a classic work. Tatum does not treat the significant activity and thought of colored communists.

He seems completely ignorant of the works of William Nolan, Wilson Record, Carey McWilliams and Alain Reppy, all of whom have made important contributions to this aspect of the political activity of the dark race.

The truth is that the apparatus of scholarship, with which **Changed Political Thought** is spiny means very little, and the book would have been much more acceptable had it been presented without pretensions of scholarly investigation.

Fighter Against Bias

CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUTT. By Helen M. Chesnutt. 313 pp. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press. \$5.

By BUCKLIN MOON

As good a stopper as any for a literary quiz program might be to ask who Charles Waddell Chesnutt was, for few American writers have been so completely forgotten. The first Negro to receive any real critical acclaim, he was perhaps as well known in his day as any writer of his time, a short-story writer and novelist of whom the influential Howells had written "he promised things that could scarcely be equaled in American fiction." But his early stories, told as if seen through the eyes of a white man, gave way to an increasing realism which gained him a reputation for bitterness and soon he was accused of having turned himself into a mere pamphleteer. This, of course, has a familiar ring; what it really meant was that the man was way ahead of his time. And it is interesting that the themes of racial violence, miscegenation and peonage—which produced some of the most effective writing of the Nineteen Forties—were used by Chesnutt as early as the turn of this century.

This story of his life, written by his daughter, is a warm and intimate family portrait told with tenderness and honesty. Here is Chesnutt's early life in the South, his career as both teacher and administrator in the segregated school system of North Carolina. Later we see his first tentative attempts to come North, his hard-won success as lawyer and stenographic court reporter, and his slow emergence as a writer who regularly cracked *The Atlantic Monthly* and whose books were widely acclaimed. Novels of Chesnutt's popular period are discussed—"The Conjure Woman," "The House Behind the Cedars," and others—including "The Marrow of Tradition," a sociological study of injustices

in the South which antagonized many readers there. Much of the running comment is given in the form of letters exchanged by author and publisher, and family correspondence.

FINALLY, in the concluding chapters, we have the story of the author's middle years—when he was fiercely determined that his children should receive the best possible education even if it meant returning to office work and allowing his literary career to suffer. All this is absorbing enough: it shows us what the man was like to his family and his many friends, but somehow it isn't enough.

This reader, at least, would like to know why it was that from 1905 until 1926 Chesnutt

Abundance

CHESNUTT experienced in abundance the things that make life beautiful—aspiration, high endeavor, noted achievement, and widespread recognition; then disillusion, readjustment, service to mankind, the respect and affection of all who knew him, abiding love and devotion from every member of his family. He never grew cynical. Life to him was a beautiful thing.—"Charles Waddell Chesnutt."

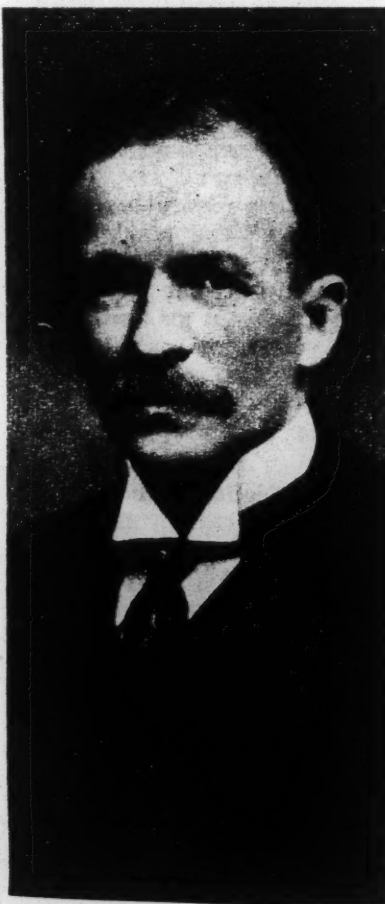
seems hardly to have written a line, and even then, when he did start another novel, why it was never successfully completed. The intimation that his increasing financial burden caused him to resume his business career is undoubtedly part of the answer, but it hardly seems more than that. Other writers have managed to combine two careers—many have continued to write under far greater hazards. Had the well run dry, or had he become a casualty of the very struggle in which he was most interested? Perhaps the clue lies in a letter he wrote his publishers in 1901. "Mr. Howells," he wrote, "has remarked several times that there is no color line in literature. On that point I take issue with him. I am pretty

CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUTT

By- Helen M. Chestnut

well convinced that the color line runs everywhere so far as the United States is concerned."

True, Chesnutt published another book in 1905, and many reviewers thought it his best, but, as one of them had said earlier, "Mr. Chesnutt has made a powerful argument in favor of social recognition; but it seems a waste of time and energy in the present state of American civilization." Most American book buyers seemed to agree with this statement, for his last was by far his least successful book. Perhaps it was this that broke his writer's heart.



Spring Publications

"Charles Waddell Chestnut Pioneer of the Color Line" by Helen M. Chestnut, his daughter, will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in May. It is the first biography of Chestnut, who wrote in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

May will also see the publication of "Roy Campanella" and "Yogi Berra" in the Most Valuable Player Series published by A. S. Barnes. *Defender 8-11*

"Hidden Flower," a new novel by Pearl Buck, tells the story of the marriage of a Japanese girl to an American lieutenant. Publication is set for May 20.

Those tireless authors and columnists, Jack Lait and Lee Mortimer, have a new title scheduled for March, "USA Confidential." Their three previous sensationalized Confidentials, "Washington, New York and Chicago Confidential" were best sellers.

Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

I WISH that some statistically minded individual with nothing else to do would make a survey of the locale of modern American novels. It would be interesting to know whether the numerical preponderance of Southern novels is really as great as it seems. May be more novels are laid in Maine and Michigan and Minnesota than we realize. May be it is only the

passion and intensity and serious literary ambition of Southern writers which make them loom so large upon the horizon of those concerned with books. In any case, novels of the South are very much with us and many of them keep ringing changes on the same gruesome and familiar themes. The newest is "Clara,"* by Lonnie Coleman.

Lonnie Coleman is a young Georgian who has lived much of his life in Alabama but

who now lives in New York. He is the author of three other novels which caused no great stir. With "Clara" he has hit his stride. His subject may be tiresome to many readers by now, but he has handled it well. His approach is fresh and vigorous. His knowledge of individual character and of the South is impressive. His narrative skill is unusual. "Clara" crackles with authentic human emotion; it is taut with the drama of clashing personalities.

Elements of Domestic Conflict

This is the story of two women told by one of them. Lillian Sayre was a small-town girl, conventional, selfish, hot-tempered and managing in her disposition. She married at the age of 20 a man she did not truly love in order to escape life with an eccentric aunt. It was a poor start for a marriage. And marriage to Carl Sayre would not have been easy for the wisest and most warmhearted of women.

Carl was a neurotic weakling and an alcoholic. The only woman who understood him and loved him was Clara, the Negro cook he had inherited from his domineering mother. Clara is the other major character in Mr. Coleman's story. A wonderful cook and housekeeper, she was stiff, proud and sullen. Lillian tried in vain to put Clara in her place. The hostility between them was thick and perpetual. And it was not decreased by

Lillian's discovery that Carl was the father of Clara's son.

So "Clara" is a novel of miscegenation. Before it is over it is also a novel of sexual brutality, of tentative homosexuality, of madness, of thwarted maternal love and of lynching. This kind of thing is conventional by now, almost a fictional stereotype with Southern writers. But Mr. Coleman does not gloat over his horrors as so many of his colleagues do over theirs. He has written with humor, with compassion, with skill in portraying his two principal characters. He has shown not only what kinds of women they were, but how they reacted to life and change, and how the force of events drew them together so that the foes of 1920 became the friends and allies of 1950.

One Resistant to Deterioration

Lillian Sayre, writing in the first person with all the colloquial turns of speech of an inadequately educated Southern girl, reveals her own prejudices, faults and mistakes without indulging in maudlin confession. Her life was difficult; but she did not know how to make it easier. While Carl sank into more and more prolonged bouts of drunkenness she became fat and bossy. She lavished a doting and excessive love on her sister's son. When crises came in their battalions she stormed and raved.

But with each disaster Lillian learned. She became wiser through suffering. The trouble was she could never keep up with events. Her growing wisdom was always several jumps behind her need of a greater wisdom. Clara did not change materially. There was something elemental in Clara, an unconquerable pride and a rocklike integrity. Her devotion to her son was absolute. And her son, growing up in Lillian's house, the intimate friend of Lillian's nephew, felt that he was "as good as anyone else." And that in Alabama meant trouble.

"Clara" is a pitiful story. Its minor characters are as well drawn as its two heroines. But somehow "Clara" is never quite so convincing as it should be. I think that this is because Mr. Coleman has manipulated his events with a determination to spare nobody anything, which seems arbitrary and excessive. One accumulates mental reservations as one goes along. Questions arise. Would Carl, a weakling in every respect, have exercised his marital rights with quite such gross brutality? Would Lillian's nephew have formed quite so deep an attachment to Clara's son, entirely uninfluenced by the color prejudices of his community? Would Carl and both young men all have met such unkind fates?

The answer to such questions is that in modern Southern fiction they certainly would. Nevertheless, "Clara" is a superior performance and Mr. Coleman is a real novelist.

Racial Tensions

CLARA. By Lonnie Coleman. 286 pp. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co. \$3.

HOW to present his material most artistically and effectively is a major problem which faces an author. Lonnie Coleman, in his fourth novel, has chosen to tell, in the words of a south Alabama girl with a commonplace, selfish nature, the thirty-year story of relations among three families, two white and one Negro.

In 1920, Lillian, bored with a small town, marries well-to-do Carl Sayre. On the wedding night, after revulsion at Carl's drunken lust, she helps deliver her sister Netta's second child; and later comes to look upon her nephew Randall as her own son. Her inability to cope with life is complicated by the revelation that Carl is the father of Petie, son of the Negro cook, Clara, who has long worked for the Sayre family. Randall and Petie grow up devoted to each other until, near the end of high school, Lillian accidentally discovers their adolescent homosexuality. This is too much—Clara had taken Carl's love from her and now their son had ~~loved Randall~~ from her—and she creates another righteous crisis which Carl manages to calm. By 1942 Petie has married and Randall must go to war. With the deaths of Carl and Randall, Lillian is left alone with Clara, but by this time they have achieved reconciliation through sorrow and struggle. Here the novel might well end, but another chapter about Petie's return from war, his ambitions and hence his foreseen fate emphasizes the assimilation of the white mistress and her Negro cook and family.

This story suffers from the banality of Lillian's gossipy voice, which robs it of much seriousness and dignity. It also suffers from a lack of social background and pressure, which leaves some of the situations in a questionable light. The mate-

rial is here in plenty and has its own effectiveness, regardless of execution. I feel merely that it could have been worked into a richer and more solid book by use of another viewpoint and style.

HUBERT CREEKMORE.



Lonnie Coleman.

BOOK REVIEW

CLARA, by Lonnie Coleman. E. P. Dutton, Publisher; 300 Fourth Ave., N.Y. 285 pp. \$3.00.

The ordinary run of novels dealing with interracial matters incline to the sociological, the sentimental, or the polemical. Either such novels deal with vaguely defined and even amorphous social forces out of which it is all too easily assumed conflict must necessarily grow; or they inveigh against or plunk for one or another cure for the epidemic interracial illness, or they sigh and sob over the heartbreaking tragedy of interracial love.



Mr. Redding

Generally Dull

The common or unimaginative variety of interracial novel is dull, unrealistic and meaningless as a projection of experience. And this is because of the treatment authors give such material.

The material itself is still the most dramatic that the American experience provides, and it is likely to remain so for many years.

It is also, and will for as many years remain, the material which, when properly handled, most tellingly reveals the intellectual and emotional chemistry of human nature.

One of the very few novelists to realize this later fact is Lonnie Coleman.

The ingredients of his book "Clara" are the usual: a small Southern town; the kind of white woman (named Lilian) who would grow up in such a town; her husband, Carl Sayre, and his colored housemaid-mistress Clara.

When Lilian becomes the wife of Sayre, she finds Clara already established in the house, and she suspects what is true. The initial conflict reposes in this fact.

But of almost equal potency is Lilian's basically psychotic squeamishness about sex, her love of martyrdom, and her middle-class social ambitions. These characteristics drive her husband to drink, haunt their marriage, and threaten Carl's life.

In this predicament, Lilian casts about for support of her failing ego. Once in a fit of anger, she drives Clara and Clara's son by Carl out of the house.

Poison Friendship

But the white woman's emotional dependence upon the mistress is greater than she realizes at first, and when she does realize it, she

tries spitefully to poison the friendship between Clara's son, Petie, and her own nephew, Randall.

But the friendship will not be poisoned, and by the time the boys are old enough for military service they are almost inseparable friends.

Meantime the conflict between Lilian and Clara goes on, with Clara, the stronger, slowly asserting her will. It is Clara's name that Carl whispers with his last breath.

But southern tradition, like a conscious force, is vindictive and Clara is made to suffer through her son, who is lynched. Lilian has grown by this time—grown in grace, in humanity, in love—and Petie's death is as much her loss as Clara's. And in the end Lilian muses:

"How strange it is that of all the people in my life, Clara turns out to be the one I've shared the most with. Tonight she is tired.

"We sit facing one another and talk about the little things that happened today... Clara is nodding, and Randy (Petie's son) is asleep in my arms... I am wide awake, not sleepy at all, for now, holding the child in my arms, even though he is not my child, I can look ahead and plan.

"Maybe for him the plans will work out better than they did for Pete or Randall or Clara or Carl or me..."

New Books

RENEE by H. R. Lenormand. The fascinating story of an unusual woman. Original publisher, Creative Age Press. 25c

THE KILLER BRAND by William Colt MacDonald. His gun blazed for vengeance. Original publisher, Doubleday & Co. 25c

26b 1952

Caldwell's Two Worlds

THE COURTING OF SUSIE BROWN.

By Erskine Caldwell. 202 pp. New York and Boston: Duell, Sloan & Pearce-Little, Brown. \$3.

By DAVID DEMPSEY

ERSKINE CALDWELL'S compression ratio, I would say from reading this new collection of stories, is 7.2 to 1. You get a smooth ride and a fast one, and you get to gawk at the natives. For the sake of moving friskily through his particular world of stunted, crotchety people, Caldwell squeezes most of what is normal out of his characters, leaving them with a residue—sometimes a highly comic residue—of "humors" or fixed ideas. He works in the tradition of the tall tale; his humor is essentially frontier humor and reminds one of an animated cartoon, in which everybody goes around acting crazy. *June 1952*

Caldwell is divided into two parts. The Southern part, usually Georgia, is compounded of folk wit, indignation and compassion, as in "The People vs. Abe Lathan, Colored," one of the best stories Caldwell has ever written. But it is also characterized by this nervous, animated humor. For example: a Negro wants to marry a certain girl but she will not have anyone who weighs less than 200 pounds. He fills his pockets with stones and his shoes with sand, puts a rock in his mouth, weighs in at 215 pounds in the girl's presence, and is accepted. Problem: how will he get rid of the stones without the girl's knowledge? Or take the hulking, half-witted Big Buck who, in a story that illustrates Caldwell's use of the "feint," seduces his light o' love only after she has cooked his supper.

2-17-52
CALDWELL'S northern part is Maine, and here he is less at home. His people are not so credible, as, for instance, in the story of the mean-spirited farmer (most of Caldwell's Maine characters share this trait) who takes an uninvited guest in for the night. The

guest, an old man of 80, sleeps late the next morning after being warned that he must rise early. What to do? Mr. Caldwell's farmer burns down the house with the old man in it. A permutation of this is the tale of the Maine couple who try to get a reduction in their fire insurance because of a Balm of Gilead tree that grows near the house. (Balm of Gilead trees are supposed to draw the lightning.) Their request is denied. Result: the man and his wife cut down the tree. *p. 4*

Most of the seventeen stories in this collection are equally—and in some cases delightfully—absurd, and they are not always without a point. Of the total, seven have appeared in previous volumes by Mr. Caldwell. The remainder have been reclaimed from the magazines.



Erskine Caldwell.
"The Courting of Susie Brown."

The Courting of Susie Brown

**'Double entendre'
novel has a P.12
Negro theme**

NEW YORK, N. Y. — The love story of a Negro boy and the illegitimate daughter of white parents is the theme of "Daisy's Fanny," novel, just published by Vantage Press, Inc., New York. The book is written by a southern writer who adopted the pen name, Jan Helmut, in order to tell her story freely, unhampered by the conventions of her home state.

Set against the background of the Tennessee hills, the ~~novel~~ ^{novel} bare the raw emotions and the thinking of the struggling, feuding, fighting and moonshining backwoodsfolk. Violence and sudden death are everyday occurrences and its fury underlines the main theme of a "too relationship."

Los Angeles
Sat. 3-1-52
The "double entendre" title refers to Fanny, the heroine, and daughter of Daisy, the portly hill woman who isn't sure who Fanny's father is.

Armenian Poet Writes About American Negro

A strange story of an Armenian-born poet who became fascinated by the Negro question in America was revealed in EMANCIPATION SYMPHONY a book published recently in Atlanta, Georgia.

This work has been edited by Dr. L. D. Reddick of Atlanta University who, in a long introduction traces the biographical background of the author, who writes under the pen name of Beethoven, II.

The story goes back to the battle torn Balkan Peninsula in south east Europe and to the first World War. At that time thousands of Armenians were massacred, allegedly, by the Turkish military authorities.

The young poet who was born under what Dr. Reddick terms "the shadow of death" lost his father in the underground resistance movement and himself lived in hiding with relatives or in one orphanage after another until he was 13 years old.

Meanwhile, his mother who had been "passing" as a Turkish citizen in Constantinople, in 1929 decided to come to America. She advertised in the Armenian language press of the United States for a husband and out of some fifty-odd proposals made a selection. Soon after her arrival in this country she sent for her son.

Both mother and son had thought of America as the "promised land," a land of democracy, free from the racial and national bickerings they had known in Europe. Instead they found prejudice and racial discrimination here also; against themselves as "foreigners" but mainly against the Negro.

They saw in the struggle of the American Negro for freedom and equality the symbol of the struggle of minorities all over the world. This is how the young poet turned his talents to the Negro theme and wrote the long dramatic poem EMANCIPATION SYMPHONY that is attracting so much attention.

Knoxville Baritone *After American P.T.* In Carnegie Debut

Emanuel Martin, Ex-GI, Pleases Crowd With Versatile Program

By GORDON L. HALL

NEW YORK—A young concert artist of whom we may well see more in the future, Emanuel



Martin, bass-baritone, distinguished himself well in a recent recital here at Carnegie Hall. In spite of heavy rain, a large audience was in attend.

Mr. Martin's ance. Mr. Martin's program included "Donzelle Fuggite" (Cavalli); "Air de Caron" (Lulli); "Mit Maedeln sich vertragen" (Beethoven); "Die beiden Grenadiere" (Schumann); and an aria from "Simon Boccanegra" (Verdi).

His diction is to be commended and he sings with great feeling.

His interpretation of American Art Songs, and Blue Mountain Songs (Paul Bowles); showed this great sense of feeling to perfection.

Rhythm To Linger

The audience will long remember the rhythm of "The Boatman's Dance" (Copeland), and "Buffalo Gals" (Bacon).

Following the spirituals, "Lord I Want to Be" (arr. Wille) and, "De Gospel Train" (arr. Burleigh) Mr. Martin returned for two encores.

Oct. 11-24-52
Born at Knoxville, Tenn., the 26-year-old bass-baritone had his exceptional voice brought to the attention of the choir-master at Calvary church in that city at an early age.

Although just a boy, he was soon singing solos, specializing in "The Lord's Prayer."

Knoxville Music Major

Following high school, he be-

came a student at Knoxville College, majoring in music and studying under Prof. Newell Fitzpatrick.

During 18 months in the army, he sang for a time with the 37th Regimental Infantry choir and later in Berlin, Germany, with the UN choir.

Today, he can usually be found at the New York College of Music, where he coaches under the direction of Dr. Frederic Kurzwell, who accompanied him at the piano during the Carnegie recital.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

standing of the people he has met there.

The sub-title of the book is "Glimpses of Unknown America." and Mr. Burman under chapter headings such as "Showboatman," "East Meets West" and "Mississippi Fisherman" gives interesting insight into the people who make their living on the Mississippi.

"Children of Noah" is a homely book which has captured the spirit of the riverboatmen, both white and Negro. Mr. Burman traveled with many of the men of whom he writes and he knows their personalities as well as their love for the Mississippi. His close relationship with them gives his writing both warmth and kindness and "Children of Noah" is another important addition to American river lore. The excellent drawings are by Alice Caddy.

"Children of Noah" by Ben Lucien Burman; Julian Messner company; New York City; \$3.50.

"The Family" by Caroline Ivey is a novel that offers a look at an unusual Southern family. Like many other fictional Southern families, the Olmsteads are a closely knit group who have seen better days. The reader sees the family through the eyes of its members and especially through the eyes of one of the daughters, Shelby. At other times it is viewed by the outsiders in the family, a son-in-law from the North, Stewart, and a daughter-in-law, Jewel, whose family is unacceptable to the Olmsteads.

The Olmsteads are certainly an original family with its dominant, beautiful women and its less colorful and efficient men. Mrs. Ivey has given all of them a slightly fey quality and it is not difficult to understand that the two outsiders at times found the family a closed circle. In fact, the family is not always completely believable in its clinging unity or in its absolute disorderly orderliness.

"The Family" introduces a number of interesting characters and sets them in a situation which provides sufficient conflict. Yet, there are times when the book seems to move too slowly and when the characters lack reality. On the whole, it is an above average novel which will help pass the dog days.

"The Family" by Caroline Ivey; William Sloane Associates; New York City; 1952; \$3.50.

"Children of Noah" This book, published months ago, and written by Ben Lucien Burman is a return for him literally to the Mississippi River. The Father of the Waters has been the subject of several of his books and he writes with warmth and under-

Alabama woman writes

THE FAMILY, by Caroline Ivey (Sloane, \$3.50).

CAROLINE IVEY, native of Smiths, Ala., and wife of Turner Ivey, professor of history at Auburn, has written a powerful, deep and magnificent book about the South. She manages, by much more than mere telling, to convey through the lives of her Southern characters, a great deal of what this land is really like. *R. F. 6*

There are no vivid, glowing descriptions, nor ugly, sordid ones, such as are often used in fiction to convey some special meaning. Caroline Ivey does it in the most subtle way, strictly through the living, and thinking, and actions of her characters. *5-18-52*

The Olmstead family, made up of the parents, two daughters and a son, is a close family, knitted together in their pride of background, of standing of respect in the community, and especially in their love and understanding of one another.

* * *

WHEN STEWART CRAWFORD, a Northerner, marries Shelby Olmstead, of this family, during the war, and comes to live in their home after the war's end, it is impossible for him to understand them. He cannot understand their way of life, their cherished ideals, their chatter, their treatment of Negroes who work for them, and of people who are obviously beneath them socially. He cannot understand the apparently clinging helplessness of the women when he knows they are actually strong and completely independent, regular "bulldogs" who hold on tooth and toenail to what they have and want to keep. Nor can these people understand him.

This is essentially Shelby's story, her search for understanding between herself and her husband, her search for and determination to bring happiness, complete happiness, into their union. It is a story of family life, a story of a people. And the author handles the whole with perfection.

It is a pleasure to read, to review and to recommend this book by a talented Southern woman about Southern people.—THELMA PEARSON YOUNG.

White's Novel To Be Dramatized

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — A dramatization of "The Fire in the Flint," a novel of the Deep South by Walter White, will be presented here June 28 at the 43rd annual convention of the NAACP which meets June 24-29.

The dramatic version of the novel has been prepared and will be directed by Prof. Melvin B. Tolson of Langston University. The play will be performed by the University's Dust Bowl Players.

"The Fire in the Flint" is the story of a young colored doctor in a small southern town who is lynched because of his refusal to abide by the "white supremacy" customs of that region.

26b 1952

FIRST BOOK OF NEGROES

**Langston Hughes
Pens New Book**

A new book, "First Book of Negroes," authored by Poet Langston Hughes and revealing the historic achievements of Negroes down through the years, has been published by a New York firm. Colorful illustrations are done by Claudia Keoring.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

"The First Book of Negroes" by Langston Hughes, like the others in the series of First Books, is designed to answer questions children may ask about Negroes. Its style and format seem designed for very young children but some of the stories are crammed with a great many facts for children of this age. Although the idea of the book is an excellent one and some of the stories are well told, on the whole it might have been greatly improved. *Revised*

Most of the stories here are built around Terry, a young colored boy living in Harlem. There are a few, however, which tell a little of the history of Negroes in the world. At times the transition from the old to the new is not clearly defined. In others as in the discussion of Booker T. Washington, Ralph Bunche and George Washington Carver, it might have been pointed out that these three men lived at different periods. *See 11-1-52*

There are pen and ink sketches of famous Negro men and women, some of which are not too good. One of Ralph Bunche is used on the cover but it is not as well done as a number of others of him I have seen. The illustrations on the inside covers do not fit too well with Mr. Hughes' text which tells of Negroes in a wide variety of professions. These illustrations include only Africans doing a war dance and a modern Negro orchestra. Perhaps the idea was to show the transition in music and the Negro's African heritage but a better choice of subject might have been made for this.

Since "The First Book of Negroes" will be read by and to children, it is unfortunate that a

little more care was not taken with both text and illustrations. Even Mr. Hughes' usual facility with words seems lacking here. The book, as I said above, has considerable merit but it might have been greatly improved.

"The First Book of Negroes" by Langston Hughes; Frankling Watts Inc., Publishers; 699 Madison ave.; New York 21, N. Y.

"HOUSE OF EARTH"

India has become a favorite locale for novelists. In "House of Earth" Dorothy Clarke Wilson writes of life in a small Indian village. She tells with great sympathy the story of Roshan, the son of high-caste Hindus, who lives at the time of the beginning of the non-violence movement under Ghandi's leadership. Isolated in his village, however, he knows only vaguely of the movement until he moves to the nearby city for a few years.

The author shows the varying influences at work on Roshan: the traditions of his forefathers, the new ideas which have come to him as he sees the injustices of his life, his changing attitude toward the Untouchables in his village, the new philosophy of Ghandi, the impact of the American missionary who comes to live in the village and asks only to be of service to its people. In the end he comes alone to a crisis in his life and finds he has left the old way behind.

"House of Earth" is excellent in its background of Indian life, in its varying cross-currents of thought, in its characterization, and in the simplicity of its style. The opening scene in which the reader is present at Roshan's birth is especially good, pointing up as it does the conflict that is to come between old and new in the mind of the young man. His mother represents the new in her desire for companionship with her husband who could not step out of the bonds of tradition.

"House of Earth" by Dorothy Clark Wilson; — Westminster Press; Witherspoon Building, Philadelphia 7, Pa.



Illustration from "The Fon and His Hundred Wives."
The Fon with the author.

The Women in the Case

THE FON AND HIS HUNDRED WIVES. By Rebecca Reyher. Illustrated. 320 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$3.95.

By HASSOLDT DAVIS

A FINE book of travel, "The Fon and His Hundred Wives" is also a serious and at the same time a jocular study of life among the Kom tribe of British West Africa. It is a book for ethnologists and housewives, telling how the Fon, the king of the tribe, lived with his many wives and why some of them ran away.

Polygamy is common practice among primitives and a costly, impractical relationship, as they are beginning to learn. The evolution of primitive polygamy toward monogamy has been similar to the course of primitive communism: both have tended to move toward individual enterprise. Monogamy is that.

Rebecca Reyher originally became interested in the many wives of the Fon when the Trusteeship Council of the United Nations grew excited about (and we quote from the U. N.) his "large-scale-romantic fancies." The U. N. actually flew an investigating committee

to West Africa to probe this heinous affair.

"Altogether," writes Mrs. Reyher, "there were about two hundred men, including all the top officials, the Commissioner of the Cameroons, the Acting Resident and the District Officer. * * * A petition signed by thirty-nine of the Fon's wives (and there were really less than half a hundred of them) complete with thumb-prints was presented. This stated that they were living in peace and contentment, and objected to any changes that might be introduced." When the commission returned to Lake Success, it wiped the problem from the agenda, except for its anecdotal use, and forgot it.

But not Mrs. Reyher. Filled with wit and feminism and doughty years, as she fairly admits, she went to the 8,000-foot

mountain where the old and drunken Fon kept his wives. For nine months, a reasonable, gestative period she lived among them.

With the fogs on her and the bugs, she talked with the wives Bi and Fukum and the proud Aluma and with others who told her of the expediency

of polygamy (the wives delegating chores to their younger colleagues, trading as they pleased, breeding as they chose), and still others who, because the Fon was ancient and impotent, sought children by commoners. And others still who didn't like being beaten.

P. 9
THIS may be amateur ethnology, but it is achieved with a warm heart and may, therefore, be more valuable than what many of our female-anthropologist-tourists produce. "My understanding," writes Mrs. Reyher, "seemingly comes by osmosis and irrelevancy. Like a jig-saw puzzle, all the pieces are in a heap, then suddenly they begin to fall into place, have purpose and meaning." And they do. Mrs. Reyher finds polygamy an affront to womanhood, likely to affect "the future hopes and happiness of millions of women."

The only protest which might be made by the armchair explorer is that this very pleasant book, like the U. N. investigating committee, makes a great to-do about primitive polygamy, which effort might better have been directed to the problems of monogamous marriage in civilized lands. Whether you have a circus of wives or a single one, whether a wife is communally married to a deity, as in the case of the Fon, or alone to you, the problem of those old elements, security and gaiety, remain.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

South African injustices against its natives and the Malan government are given a thorough going-over in a new novel, "Frail Barrier", by Philip Gillon. Although the story is quite different it invites comparison with Alan Paton's "Cry the Beloved Country", with its setting in Johannesburg and its sympathetic attitude toward the natives. But neither in narrative ability, nor in style, does Mr. Gillon approach Mr. Paton's skill as a writer.

The central character in "Frail Barrier" is a young lawyer, Peter Justin, who is kept busy shifting from his roles as gay young man about town, as protector of the natives and as legal representative of some of the more oppressive whites. Besides, his precarious financial situation keeps him always on the jump to avoid bankruptcy. P. 11

As a character, Peter Justin had great possibilities, but the author has not realized them. Instead, Justin emerges as a thoroughly confused individual who is often inconsistent and usually unbelievable. His protestations of friendship for the natives are outweighed by his selfish grasping of any method to extricate himself from a difficult position. When he finally draws the line against a course of action, because it is dishonest or unethical, the reader finds it hard to accept. *Ching See*

The natives are more sympa-

thetic characters, perhaps because they are portrayed as simple men and women. It is Justin's complexity which has defeated the author, because he becomes more confused than complex. Part of the confusion, of course, is intentional, since Justin is groping for a philosophy of life to take the place of the strong influence of his father. But even within these limits, he is not a real person.

See 3-15-52
"Frail Barrier" has not realized all its possibilities, but it does give a revealing look at South African life and the callousness of whites toward the natives. There is a liberal sprinkling of sex as Justin lives up to his dashing reputation. In the end, he concludes that "he would fight for the end of the exploitation of men by men. There could be no rest for him, no peace or happiness, while any man held rights over another". *See 3-15-52*

"Frail Barrier" by Philip Gillon; Vanguard Press; 424 Madison Avenue; New York 17, N. Y.; 1952; \$3.00.

A Pattern of Frictions

FRAIL BARRIER. By Philip Gillon.
249 pp. New York: Vanguard
Press. \$3.

By JOHN BARKHAM

SOUTH African fiction (of which we are seeing more and more these days) seems to fall naturally into two types—the exotic, love-on-the-veld kind, as practiced by writers like Stuart Cloete and Daphne Rooke, and the novel of social protest, as exemplified in Alan Paton's "Cry, the Beloved Country." The latter is infinitely the more challenging to a writer. It is easier to put into a book the South Africa of sun and oranges than the beloved country for which men cry.

Philip Gillon has taken his courage in his hands and has aimed for the larger target in his first novel. Indeed, where Paton was content to focus on the major clash of black and white, Mr. Gillon has tried to mirror the whole pattern of race conflicts. In any representative segment of South African society today you will find elements of antagonisms—white vs. black, Boer vs. Briton, Gentile vs. Jew, Indian vs. Negro, and so on. All this and more is grist for Mr. Gillon's mill. In this sense his book offers a broader view of the current situation than any other South African novel I have read in years.

He accomplishes this by involving his central character, a

Mr. Barkham, managing editor of *Coronet*, has written and lectured extensively on his former country, South Africa. lawyer named Peter Justin, in a series of shady financial deals with clients of different races, creeds and colors. Justin is something of a shyster who has no scruples about using the law to circumvent the law. His single redeeming feature seems to be his pity for the Negroes. The reader may find it hard to follow Justin through the convolutions of his rob-Peter-to-pay-Paul finagling, but it will take him into the homes and hearts of all kinds of South Africans.

THE white folk in the story are an unattractive lot—mercenary, hedonistic, the typical products of a materialist society. They prey upon each other's means and emotions. The picture of the money-grabbers and pleasure-seekers of Johannesburg is etched in acid.

With the Negroes his touch lightens and his voice warms. Here he writes with fervor and compassion. We see why Sixpence, the Bantu servant, speaks for all his people when he says: "The face of God is white and is turned against us."

Mr. Gillon is not a graceful writer, and his web of interlocking sub-plots tends to become topheavy. But from it all emerges a picture of South African urban life that has much of the seamy truth in it. When Mr. Gillon becomes angry or when he speaks for the silent his voice rings with genuine eloquence. In its best moments this story will take you back to Paton's Africa.



"The seamy truth of South African life. . ."

Dr. Franklin Top Dem. Statistician

Sat. 2-16-52
WASHINGTON

Dr. Charles L. Franklin, economist with wide government experience and publisher and editor of "The Handbook of Basic Economic Statistics," has been appointed chief statistician of the Research Division of the Democratic National Committee.

The appointment was made by Frank E. McKinney, chairman of the National Committee. Dr. Franklin assumed his new post on Jan. 28, leaving the position of housing economist, Division of Housing Research, Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Publication of the Handbook will be continued by the associates of Dr. Franklin, under his general supervision.

Set Up Statistics Bureau

Dr. Franklin, who is 41, was born in New Orleans and educated at Straight College in that city and at Columbia University in New York, where he received the degrees of M.A. in 1934 and Ph.D. in 1936.

After his graduation he did research work for the New York State Department of Labor, and Social Security Board and the Office of Price Administration.

In 1947 he established the Economic Statistics Bureau of Washington.

Dr. Franklin resides with his family at 3734 Hayes St., NE, Washington.

CAN'T GO TO TEXAS AGAIN:

Mob Threat Exiles Mixed Pair Who Wrote Of South

By SAMUEL HOSKINS

PHILADELPHIA

They can't go to Texas again! They can't go to Texas, because Texas is the South.

And in the South there are codes and taboos, behaviour patterns which must be observed.

They were accused of violating these codes, of ignoring the taboos, of failing to follow the pattern.

They collaborated in the writing of a book, and in doing so were thrown together on terms unacceptable to their fellow citizens.

They are women. But one is colored and the other white.

Incredible! But it happened. It happened to Elizabeth Murphy Oliver and Maxine Graham Jordan.

Elizabeth Oliver is head of the department of Education at Mary Allen College, Crockett, Tex., an institution of culture which dates to a few years after the Civil War.

Mrs. Jordan, mother of an eight-year-old son, is a portrait artist of note and a concert pianist.

Bottom Fell Out

The bottom fell out of their world when information leaked out during early 1951 that they were collaborating in the writing of a novel, "The Hare of the Big Thicket," which contains authentic material on the history of East Texas's oil boom, rise of the Ku Klux Klan and subsequent social changes during the period between two world wars.

They were en route to New York City to contact a publishing firm when they stopped off in Philadelphia. It was here, in the 'City of Brotherly Love,' the resultant of William Penn's noble experiment, that they related for the first time details of the experiment in Houston, Tex., which led to their exile.

"We met through mutual friends," Elizabeth Oliver says. "Both of us were interested in writing, and decided to collaborate in the writing of a novel."

She says she does not know how

they decided to write about "Big Thicket," an area near Crockett, Tex., but somehow picked this as the site of their story.

Maybe it was because "Big Thicket" is colorful and of social significance, maybe because it is which wiped out Big Jaw's lucrative tourist cabin trade and left the local inhabitants who had depended upon it desolate and bitter.

If and when the book is published, it ought to hit the best seller list.

They started the writing project during December, 1950, and were well into the story when one day in March, 1951, a court official served papers upon Mrs. Jordan, who had been divorced from her husband a year, to appear in court.

Husband Signed Complaint

She was shocked when she found that the complainant was her former husband, Robert E. Jordan. She was more shocked when she learned the nature of his complaint.

The ex-husband demanded custody near Crockett, the hometown of Mrs. Jordan.

The Main Character

Anyway, it is quite possible that it is no accident that Big Jaw Self, bootlegging kingpin of the piney woods region was selected as the main character of the book they decided to write, and his life its theme.

The hard core of "The Hare Of The Big Thicket" has to do with the depression years, WPA, NRA, corn likker, honky-tonk and Pentacostal religion in the Pine Arbors.

It also has to do with the L-Men (liquor), the Roosevelt Era



PROFESSOR OLIVER



MRS. JORDAN

tody of the couple's eight-year-old son on grounds that Mrs. Jordan associated with colored people.

Basis for his allegation was the visits the two women made to each other's homes in connection with their writing. The case, which made district court history was the first time the racial issue was

raised in Texas in a custody case. Raised Playmate Issue

It was heard in the court of District Judge W. P. Hamblen Jr. In his allegation, Jordan accused his wife of doing secretarial work for her colored colleague, who at ern University, Houston.

He went so far as to charge that the child in question was thrown into intimate contact with the family's 13-year-old son. On these grounds he accused Mrs. Jordan of being an unfit mother and demanded custody of the child.

The Judge, however, ruled in favor of the mother. Said he: "Mrs. Jordan has explained to my satisfaction how she happened to be in the Abneys' home."

The women said they thought this was the end of their troubles and started to work again on their book, but this time with a bit more attention paid to the taboos and customs.

In order not to be seen visiting the Abneys, Mrs. Jordan would enter the home the back way, climbing over a six-foot fence. On one occasion she fell and nearly broke her ankle. Professor Oliver, when visiting Mrs. Jordan, padded herself to the proportions of a charwoman and went disguised as a maid.

Instead of the trial being the end of their troubles, however, it was only the beginning. There were telephone calls at midnight, threats and insults.

Darts Hurlled

Ugly epithets were hurled at the eight-year-old son of the white woman, and the colored woman was maligned by colored. Police spotted the license number of the teacher's automobile and stopped it at random, often making up unfounded charges.

The darts, the women pointed out, came from both sides—colored and whites!

Nor was this all. The payoff came in the form of wagging tongues spreading ugly rumors.

Rumors, Mob Threats

Suddenly the two women found that it was no longer a matter of wagging tongues, but a threat of violence in the form of the ever present spectre of a southern lynch mob.

On Jan. 17 the colored family left Texas, possibly for good, certainly as permanent residents. A few days later, amidst a cloud generated by the poisonous fumes of gossip spawn in racial hate and bigotry, Mrs. Jordan, too, left her again.

And now, they can't go to Texa home state.

Publishers Accept Book By Victims Of Dixie Mob

NEW YORK — Mrs. Maxine Jordan and Elizabeth Murphy Oliver hit the jack pot last week when their much discussed book, "The Hare of the Big Thicket," the writing of which forced them to leave Texas recently, was accepted by one of the nation's largest publishing firms.

Mrs. Jordan who is a white Texan, a concert pianist, portrait artist, and the mother of an eight-year-old son and Miss Oliver (Mrs. Reid Abney), former head of the Department of Education at Mary Allen College and graduate professor at Texas Southern University in Texas, were the object of Southern intimidation when they got together over a year ago to write the book.

About Bootlegging Era

A down-to-earth account of life in the Big Thicket Area of Texas during the '20s and '30, when bootlegging, preaching in the pine arbors and the WPA held sway, the book promises to become one of the best sellers.

The two women met James Michener, author of "South Pacific", when he was on a lecture tour of Texas and he encouraged them to finish the book and submit it for publication.

Before they could adequately prepare to leave the South, they were forced to leave by mob threats and hastened to New York to the publisher.

Pending a lecture tour of their own, the women and their families state that they are glad it was accepted, and that they felt all along that the book would be a great one.

A Homeland Was the Hope

HENRY CHRISTOPHE AND THOMAS CLARKSON. A Correspondence. Edited by Earl Leslie Griggs and Clifford H. Prator. 287 pp. Berkeley: University of California Press. \$4.75.

By SELDEN RODMAN

It is an astonishing fact that until the publication of this book, one-third of which is taken up with a study of Christophe himself, there existed in the English language no single work of non-fiction describing one of the two members of the Negro race who have played an independent role on the stage of world history. The ex-slave who helped Toussaint L'Ouverture consolidate the revolution against the French in Saint-Domingue and then ruled absolutely as self-crowned King of Haiti in the second decade of the last century has been known to us hitherto only as the hero of John W. Vandercook's "Black Majesty" and through the dramatic caricature of O'Neill's "The Emperor Jones."

Earl Griggs and Clifford Prator, both members of the English faculty of U. C. B. A., have now set matters right. With impeccable scholarship and a sympathetic understanding of the world in which King Henry played so masterful and tragic a role, they have centered their study in the rich, untapped source of the Clarkson papers in the British Museum. Thomas Clarkson was himself one of the great men of his age. Author of the first important study of the Quakers, and with Wilberforce

Mr. Rodman, author of "The Revolutionists," a play about Christophe, is a student of Haitian life and art.

the guiding spirit of the English Abolitionist movement, Clarkson was for ten years Christophe's unofficial adviser, his confessor and his eyes-and-ears in Europe.

The generosity, integrity and vision of this great humanitarian are a bright page in the sordid chronicle of the Negro's effort to achieve civilized status. After Christophe's suicide, Clarkson not only entertained the monarch's widow and two daughters

for a whole year in his own home—he himself had never met Christophe or even been to Haiti—but he saw to it that the six thousand pounds which the King had sent to him for diplomatic work was turned over to the exiled family for its subsequent life in Italy.

It had been Clarkson's hope that Christophe would succeed in establishing an enlightened and ultimately self-governing homeland for the Negroes in Haiti. Christophe was not wanting in the intelligence, imagination and racial pride required for this task, and the will to execute it. He succeeded in organizing the revolution-wrecked economy to a point where it rivaled in productiveness the fabulous wealth of the Colonial period. He established universal education in a school system modeled on the English. He was about to make English the official language of his kingdom and to substitute the Protestant for the Roman Catholic religion. He seems to have understood that a return of French influence, either economic or cultural, would spell disaster for Haiti. With Clarkson he was

preparing to provide a haven for the oppressed Negroes of all nations—14,000 from the state of North Carolina alone.

But Clarkson underestimated two fateful circumstances. The north of Haiti, following the deaths of Toussaint and Desalines, had fallen to Alexandre Pétion, a mulatto of goodwill but indecisive character. By turning his territory into individual peasant holdings, abolishing the system of overseers and planned irrigation, and negotiating to pay the French a huge indemnity for expropriation of the colonial plantations, Pétion succeeded in making economic chaos in Haiti permanent.

THE temptation of indolence next door was too great for Christophe's newly liberated workers. In addition, Christophe himself became the victim of his own totalitarianism. Though he

"discountenanced and severely punished adultery and loose conversation, no woman in his court was free from his libidinous advances." Knowing how to govern others, he lost control of himself—and ultimately of everything that he had built except a pile of rocks on a mountain.

This is the tragic history, the perennial legend, documented at long last.



Illustration from "Henry Christophe and Thomas Clarkson." Henry Christophe. Painted from life by Richard Evans.

Ethel Waters' book to sell for 35 cents

Los Angeles July
NEW YORK — Ethel Waters' brutally frank autobiography, "His Eye Is On the Sparrow," heads the May list of Bantam Books' 35c releases, it was announced today.

The book was a smash best-seller in its hardcover edition published by Doubleday, and was a Book-of-the-Month club selection. It is called "one of the roughest, toughest life stories in print," and is the product of Miss Waters' dictation in her own informal words into a tape recorder with editing later by collaborator Charles Samuels. *Sci. 4-1152*

Tied in with the Waters release will be four other Bantam releases on race relations: Worth Tuttle Hedden's "The Other Room;" Bucklin Moon's "The Darker Brother;" Patterson and Conrad's "Scottsboro Boy;" and Sinclair Lewis' "Kingsblood Royal."

"Scottsboro Boy" is one of last year's "million-copy" leaders, according to Bantam.

Tan Housing Needs Still Unmet—Survey

P. 5
Send 10 20 52
Apio American
WASHINGTON
Housing conditions for non-whites improved considerably during the past decade, but there is still a large, unmet market for adequate housing for them, according to "Housing of the Non-white Population 1940 to 1950," just published by the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

Prepared by the HHA's Division of Housing Research the booklet is available for 25 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C.

Based On 1950 Census

In a broad analysis based on the 1950 census as well as earlier sample surveys, the 42-page publication analyzes geographic and economic changes in the status of non-whites, as well as changes in the housing they occupy.

Oct 8-38-52
The study covers population and households, geographic shifts of households and housing supply, including doubling, overcrowding, income, conditions and facilities of housing, tenure, mortgage status of owned homes, value of owned homes and contract monthly rents.

The booklet also includes charts and appendices containing definitions and explanatory notes and tables.

~~James P. C. 19~~
Chester Himes, author of "If He Hollers Let Him Go," has a new novel scheduled for October publication by Coward-McCann. "Cast the First Stone" deals with a young man serving a twenty-year term for robbery in a state prison. The author highlights many of the existing faults in society's approach to the criminal.



Brilliant— Miss Hortense Calisher, a brilliant and mature writer, recently published "In the Absence of Angels," a modern story which sells for \$3. Her style is being hailed.—INP.

WRITER OF MODERN STORIES.—Miss Hortense Calisher, a brilliant and mature writer, has completed a group of modern stories and is author of the novel, "In Absence of the Angels." Her characters are distinct and full and her stories concern various sorts and conditions of men, women and children. Even more remarkable is her style, intellectually flavored, subtly phrased and feelingly presented.—ANP Photo.

New Du Bois Book To Hit Press In July

NEW YORK — A new book by W.E.B. Du Bois, entitled "In Battle For Peace" will be published in July by Masses and Mainstream. P. 1

Subtitled "The Story of My 83rd Birthday," the book is a personal narrative dealing with the stormy events in the life of the distinguished scholar during the past year.

The highlight of the story is the trial and acquittal of Dr. Du Bois and his colleagues of the former Peace Information Center on charges of failing to register as "foreign agents."

The book includes comment by Shirley Graham (Mrs. Du Bois), who took a leading part in the successful fight to vindicate her husband and his associates.

"This exciting human document has a profound message for the American people at this hour," declared Samuel Sillen, editor of Masses and Mainstream. "Dr. Du Bois unmasks the war-makers. He shows how peace can be won. We are honored to publish this great book by a great American. It will be hailed by many thousands of readers here and abroad as a major contribution to the cause of peace."

"In Battle For Peace" describes the background of Dr. Du Bois' work for peace and its relation to his life-long crusade for Negro freedom and colonial liberation.

Leashed Fervor Powers a Negro Novel

Reviewed by John Barkham

INVISIBLE MAN. By Ralph Ellison. Random House. 439 pp. \$3.50. *p. 11*

BRACE YOURSELVES, folks: here's a first novel by a young Negro that will hit you like a thunderclap. Our society being the imperfect thing it is, Negro novels of social protest are, unhappily, a familiar part of our literature. Mr. Ellison plows this well-worn ground, but in a new and dynamic way. And he wields a prose that keeps you transfixed to the last line of his tale. This man can write.

Most of the book is understandably angry, for the invisible man of the title is the Negro himself, seldom seen as he really is, but only as others preconceive him. The narrator is a young Southerner who learned to know his place very early in life.

Mr. Ellison, writing with a quiet but corrosive ferocity, has an opening scene in which a group of Negro schoolboys are used to entertain the guests at a white banquet. The treatment of those kids, admittedly as filtered through the mind of the author, is pure sadism. Over and over again Mr. Ellison, without ever seeming to get excited himself, raises the reader's blood pressure to explosion point.

In Harlem, the "invisible man" becomes involved in a subversive political group, which drags him naturally into open race violence. Step by step we follow the boy through the stages of his disillusionment, degradation and ultimate downfall.

It is not the plot, however, that leaves the deep imprint on the reader's mind. These things have happened before. It is the scornful power of the author's prose. Mr. Ellison writes at a white heat, but a heat which he manipulates like a veteran. For a first novel, this is a memorable performance. Mark the name well: you will hear of Ralph Ellison again.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

p. 11

"Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison is an unusual book, at times a very gripping one, but oddly enough a disappointing one. It is the story of one man who describes himself in a Prologue as "a man of substance, of flesh and bone, fiber and liquids—and I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible, understand simply because people refuse to see me." He has retreated both mentally and physically from life and recounts his experiences in the body of the book. It closes with an Epilogue in which he announces he is emerging from his cellar into the light again.

Mr. Ellison's invisible man is a high school student in the South. His story begins when he enrolls in a Southern Negro college, is expelled after an extraordinary adventure with one of the white trustees and goes to New York. The major portion of the book deals with his life there, where he becomes a member of the Brotherhood, a strongly disciplined group which closely resembles the Communist Party. The climax of his relations with the Brotherhood brings him another disillusionment.

Although Mr. Ellison writes thoughtfully and with a sympathetic knowledge of his character's problems, "Invisible Man" reads more like a detailed case study than like a novel. Somehow, neither the people nor the situations come to life. The book is worthy at times especially in the chapters devoted to the Brotherhood and its views and techniques of action.

Yet the book is a revealing study of a Negro's mind. The photographs excellent without

an exception. "The Glory of Our West"; Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison Avenue, New York City; 1952; \$2.95

author probes deep into the desires, goals, and fears of his character. The psychology is sound and his is a telling analysis of a Negro's reactions. His book is surprisingly objective. Dr. Bledsoe, the Negro college president; Mr. Norton, the trustee; Trueblood, the sharecropper; Jack the Brotherhood leader, are shown with all their limitations. Dr. Bledsoe is especially well drawn and represents a type of cynicism which is familiar. There are only a few women characters and they play minor roles in the development of the action. Mr. Ellison is not as successful with them as with his men nor does he seem to be as penetrating with his white characters with the possible exception of Mr. Norton.

"Invisible Man" is a novel of great merit despite its shortcomings. Mr. Ellison knows how to write and his book will not be quickly forgotten.

"Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison; Random House; 457 Madison Avenue, New York 22; \$3.50. *dat. 4-19-52*

"The Glory Of Our West" is an apt title for this collection of fifty photographs of the Western United States which has just been published. With each photograph is a commentary by a well-known writer on the particular scene. Each Western state is represented and there are, among others, breathtakingly beautiful views of most of the national parks, of the Alamo, the McKenzie River, Mount Timpanogos, Mission San Juan Capistrano, and Pend Oreille Lake.

These photographs have an interesting history. They are a part of a collection distributed by the Standard Oil Company of California in picture-folders to show the scenic attractions of the region. In 1947 alone 33 million of these picture folders were distributed. The present selection of fifty has been published as a private business venture by Doubleday and Company.

I cannot recommend this book too highly. The text is informative, the format attractive, and the photographs excellent without

BOOK REVIEW

By SAUNDERS REDDING

INVISIBLE MAN, by Ralph Ellison. Random House, New York. 439 pp. \$3.50.

Read the Prologue and then the Epilogue before you read what lies between. They are like this to the book:

You compose yourself for sleep. Your mind starts working over the ended day, and then gradually over the ended week, month, year, years.

Recall The Past

You remember things you think you have forgotten. There are flashes of fire and brimstone in your memories and, like graveyard ghosts, icy spectres of disgrace, defeat and degradation rise to haunt you.

You push them back, exercise them, and go on with something concrete and real, like the thought "I'm drunk. I think," or like the way your body twitches with too much wine and weariness.

You try to concentrate on that. But the spectres rise again and dance through your mind. You groan and twist and turn, now fighting sleep, knowing that you will dream a harrowing dream.

And then you are asleep against your will. That's the prologue. You have a gradual awakening. Gratitude that it was a dream dawns slowly.

You yawn, you stretch your limbs, and then you laugh, though a little ruefully, for the morning. Your head is big, that's all. And that's the epilogue.

What lies between is madness, is nightmare, as fantastically horrible as anything the subconscious can produce. It starts quietly and sensibly enough with a boy in a Southern town who is ambitious to go to college.

He goes on a scholarship, and after three years finds himself



in a circumstance that leads to his dismissal.

Red. 5-10-52
Nightmare Starts

It is here that the nightmare begins with the fantastic lack of causality, the gross exaggeration of the pointless and inconsequential, the hellish vitalization of characters with no more reality than the monstrous effigies in a carnival—exactly as in a dream.

But in a stretch of superb writing, we are treated to a story of incest (and a bar room full of mental patients) that is as wonder-producing as anything in modern fiction. *p. 11*

Expelled from college, the boy (nameless as in a dream) goes to New York. The tone is quieter now, but there is that same elaboration of sometimes pointless episode—buying and eating, for instance, of hot buttered yams; the finding and the wishing to get rid of and in the end the absolutely pointless holding onto a cast iron bank full of coins.

The boy meets people, gets a job in a paint factory, loses it, joins the "Brotherhood," and shoots to power as the boss of Harlem. His power is disputed.

The pace steps up again, the unreal nightmare quality returns, and the satanic vitality of unreal horror brims and spills over. In the book's climax, a description (hardly a narrative) of the Harlem riot, we have the kind of spectacle made famous by Cecil B. DeMille in the days of silent films.

Mr. Ellison's story is hung from a frayed and fragile cord of thought: be yourself. But the truth is that there is no self here that confirms experience or affirms life, and this is because the episodes and the characters, the situations and the dialogue are unwarrantably blown up to monumental proportions.

The book's fault is that a writer of power has put all his power into describing the diurnal life of gnats. It is as if a steam shovel were used to dig a compost pit for a kitchen garden.

Though he owes something—and perhaps a great deal to the Russians, and especially to Dostoevski and Gogol, Ralph Ellison can

write, make no mistake about it. All he has to do now is find a subject equal to his powers and bring his powers under control.

BOOK

REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

Charles Waddell Chesnutt is a well-known name in Negro literature. His biography written by his daughter, Helen M. Chesnutt, is sub-titled "Pioneer of the Color Line" and it is clear from the text that Mr. Chesnutt should be equally as famous a champion for equal rights for Negroes.

A large part of the book is devoted to correspondence between Chesnutt and his publishers, his family, and friends. In a day when Booker T. Washington's doctrines of compromise were making a great impact on white America, Mr. Chesnutt spoke out without equivocation for full equality.

Chesnutt was born in 1858, of parents who left the South to escape the growing proscriptions on the lives of free Negroes, but who later returned to North Carolina. From the time he was 14, he was called upon to help with family finances and he completed his education with great effort. After his marriage he studied stenography with the idea of leaving the South to find greater freedom for his children.

He later moved to Cleveland, where he prospered in business, eventually gave up his work to write, but later found it necessary to return to his office because the income from his books was meager. His four children were educated at Smith, Howard and Western Reserve.

Chesnutt himself gained fame with his short stories, many of which appeared in the Atlantic Monthly. Two collections of his short stories were published, "The Conjure Woman" and "The Wife of His Youth" and two novels, "House Behind the Cedars," and "The Marrow of Tradition." The latter, published in 1901, was not received with the enthusiasm of his earlier

works. In 1905, his last novel, "The Colonel's Dream," appeared.

Chesnutt emerges from the pages of this book as a loving husband and father, urbane and well-travelled and an outspoken defender of Negro rights. He was deeply interested in the NAACP, attended a number of its early meetings and in 1928 was awarded the Spingarn medal. He was accepted as a member of numerous civic groups in Cleveland, including the Chamber of Commerce and the Rowfant Club, the latter an exclusive group of book lovers.

Chesnutt's work was unusual at the time because he wrote of Negroes of all walks of life and of intermarriage. He received considerable critical acclaim although his output was comparatively small.

This is a much needed biography of one of the most outstanding figures in Negro literary history. His family was deeply devoted to him and this book at times is sentimental, and too much concerned with his family affairs. But the inclusion of the correspondence prevents this from becoming a major fault.

Miss Chesnutt has done a thorough job in gathering material about her father and the result is an interesting, informative book.

"Charles Waddell Chesnutt" by Helen M. Chesnutt; The University of North Carolina Press; Chapel Hill, North Carolina; 1952; \$5.00.

"JEHOVAH BLUES"

"Jehovah Blues" by Marguerite Steen is the last of a trilogy on the Flood family. The first was "The Sun Is My Undoing" published in 1941; the second was "Twilight on the Floods." The present book is the story of Aldebaran Flood, last of that lusty family.

It has many of the faults of the earlier books without their wide sweep and romantic backgrounds.

All in all, this is another of those books which make Negroes exotic and strange, sometimes nice people, but definitely different. Miss Steen is still able to make her story move along with great sweeps but this latest effort races to an unbelievable climax.

"Jehovah Blues" by Marguerite Steen; Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison Ave., New York City; 1952; \$3.50.

BOOK

REVIEWS

26 by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Love across the color line, to use a familiar cliché, is the theme of a first novel by Eugene Brown titled "Trespass." In it, Mr. Brown tells the story of Mitchell Beal, white, not quite 19, and strongly attracted to Negroes because of a deep friendship with the Negro chef at a summer camp where he worked. He meets a Negro, Apres Compton in the post office where both worked and through him meets Ann Wills, another postal worker. Up to this point, which unfortunately comes early in the story, the book offers possibilities of being original, but before it ends it has dragged in all the usual stereotypes.

After the story gets underway, one wonders how such potentially explosive characters as these ever came together in a place as prosaic as the post-office. As too often happens in this sort of novel, the author has stacked the cards against his characters. Ann and Mitch haven't a chance. He is too young and she is too experienced; she has T.B. and he has a mother complex; he has no money and is in school while she is totally dependent on the aunt with whom she lives. Although she tells him on one occasion that color has nothing to do with their difficulties it does have a great deal to do with what happens.

The author writes in the present, but present-day Harlem does not carry such a big chip on its shoulder for the casual white visitor as Mitchell Beal finds on his first trip uptown. Throughout the book one has the impression that the friendship of a white man for Negroes is much like that of a stranger from Mars finding earth friends.

In addition, Mr. Brown uses two obviously contrived incidents to further his story. One is the letter from Ann which Mitch's mother

intercepts and which would have seem far-fetched even to an inexperienced man; the other was the final scene between Apres (a name I never got used to) and Mitch with the introduction of the homosexual angle. This rounded out Apres' character as a heavy-drinking, ignorant dope addict with homosexual inclinations. Incidentally, without knowing the sort of civil service examination given to prospective postal employees, it would still seem that Apres must have risen to the top of his fifth-grade educational form to pass.

All in all, "Trespass" is an occasionally skillful re-working of the old theme, "Never the twain shall meet." In this case the skill is shown in the writing and to some extent in the characterizations, not in plot construction. Ann and Mitch are acceptable for the most part, but Apres is something else again. Interracial marriages and affairs are sufficiently frequent these days that the "stranger in our midst" technique is definitely dated. From title to final page this short (192 pages) novel makes Ann and Mitch seem like pioneers. The book will probably sell on its bedroom scenes alone which are vividly described and chatty, for want of a better word.

"Trespass" by Eugene Brown; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison Avenue; New York City; 1952; \$2.25.

BOOKS AND THINGS

By LEWIS GANNETT

INVISIBLE MAN. By Ralph Ellison. Random House. 439 pages. \$3.50.

OUIS ARMSTRONG put it on his trumpet:
What did I do
To be so black
And blue?

Ralph Ellison, who grew up in Oklahoma, attended Tuskegee Institute in Alabama on an Oklahoma State Scholarship, and has lived in New York since 1936, puts it into a novel. "Invisible Man" is his story of a good boy who happened to be born a Negro.

Herold Johnson
The Virtue of Invisibility P. 21
The anonymous spokesman of the story explains why he is living in a warm, well lit hole in the ground, a forgotten, walled-in section of a basement in the jungle of Harlem. Nobody knows he is there. Nobody notices him when he emerges. He is hibernating. Hibernation is a preparation for later action. This man has been hurt by too much action. He had tried too hard. Now he is dormant, recovering, and he tells the story of his life.



Ralph Ellison

I am not sure that I understand all the symbolism of Mr. Ellison's story, or the full meaning of his concept of "invisibility." But between his rather murky opening and closing chapters he tells a series of stories of such power and diversity as to give his book rank as perhaps the most distinguished Negro novel to appear since Richard Wright's "Native Son." And "Native Son," too, if you remember, had a dubious conclusion.

Henry Jones
"Overcome 'em With Yeses"

"Don't let no white man tell you his business," the "hero's" slave-born grandfather says in Mr. Ellison's novel, "'cause after he tells you he's liable to git shame he tole it to you and then he'll hate you. Fact is, he was hating you all the time."

Grandfather had been the meekest of men. But on his deathbed he had startled his family by declaring, "I been a traitor all my born days, a spy in the enemy's country ever since I give up my gun back in the Reconstruction. Live with your head in the lion's mouth. I want you to overcome 'em with yeses, undermine 'em with grins, agree 'em

with death and destruction, let 'em swoller you till they vomit or bust wide open."

The grandson had yes'd them. His high school graduation oration had been on humility as the essence of progress, and it was so good he was invited to repeat it at a gathering of the town's leading citizens. The gathering turned out to be a drunken stag party, and the story of that is one of Mr. Ellison's most distressingly convincing episodes.

Out of the South

Nevertheless, the boy went on to college, and he was such a good student he was assigned to drive one of the philanthropic Boston trustees about the countryside. The trustee was full of interest in the colored people, but perhaps a little too interested in tumbledown old slave quarters. One of the cabins housed an old reprobate, distinguished in the community for incest. That's a story which might remind you of "Tobacco Road," except that it is even better told. But the president of the college wasn't amused. He gave our hero a cynical lecture on the role of Negro leaders ("You let the white folk worry about pride and dignity—you learn where you are and get yourself power, influence, contacts with powerful and influential people—then stay in the dark and use it") and he shipped the boy off to New York City.

In the Harlem Jungle

Most of "The Invisible Man" is the story of this young Negro intellectual's fantastic life in Harlem. The philanthropic white trustees did nothing to help—the black president hadn't expected them to. The boy learned about unionism, not happily, in a paint factory. He stumbled into an eviction, the crowd muttering as the marshals carried an old couple out of the apartment for which they couldn't pay rent, and his old talent for oratory welled up. The crowd chased the marshals away. The police came. The boy escaped, but a Communist had heard him, and thought that oratorical talent could be used.

It was used. Mr. Ellison is very good in his pictures of the soapbox battles in the side streets of Harlem, the black chauvinists, the class-war boys, and the rest. He paints a vivid picture of a Communist meeting, with the crowd responding to the boy orator as his grandfather's generation might have done at an old-fashioned revival. But the Communist leaders turned out to be all too much like the Southern college president. They had their own theory of power. All they wanted was one great belch of affirmation—yes, yes, yes—from their own kind of Uncle Toms.

Mr. Ellison packs too much symbolism into his story. The philosophy drags. But when he is content to tell a story he ranks with the best.

Talk With Ralph Ellison

By HARVEY BREIT

JUST over medium height and strong and substantial of physique, the author of "Invisible Man" is visible indeed. His face is firm and sensitive and remarkably handsome, a scar and a thin mustache failing to mar it. He's a standout in any company. The name is Ralph Ellison, heard here and there and one hopes everywhere these days because of his first, distinguished novel. And to be heard of in the future, if any predictions are worth anything at all.

Though up until this relatively triumphant Mr. Ellison has been, it must be admitted, obscure. Before putting him on record as a thinking, talking chap, it seemed a good idea, therefore, to root around in Mr. Ellison's biography. It turned out he was born in Oklahoma City, in 1914. He lived there most of his life.

Mr. Ellison spent three years at Tuskegee Institute, where he studied music and composition. Then he stumbled on sculpture.

That got him to New York, bent on exploring stone with a hammer and clay with a wire gimmick. Just about that time, though, along came "The Wasteland"—T. S. Eliot's, of course, and that turned out to be the most influential book in his life. "It got me interested in literature," Mr. Ellison said. "I tried to understand it better and that led me to reading criticism. I then started looking for Eliot's kind of sensibility in Negro poetry and I didn't find it until I ran into Richard Wright."

Dim. 5-4-32
THE work or the man? "Both," Mr. Ellison said. "We became friends, and still are. I began to write soon after. Meeting Wright at that time,

when he hadn't yet begun to be famous, was most fortunate for me. He was passionately interested in the problems of technique and craft and it was an education. Later the Communists took credit for teaching him to write, but that's a lot of stuff. I published a short story in American Writing, I think, in 1940. I was in Cross-Section. That was, I believe, 1944, in which some of the first work of Norman Mailer, Arthur Miller and Shirley Jackson appeared."

Was "Invisible Man" Mr. Ellison's only novel? "I wrote a short novel in the process of writing this one," Mr. Ellison replied, "just to get a kindred theme out of the way."

Now, Mr. Ellison couldn't just slough off that one. How could he have been that clear? Why hadn't he been just enough confused—as most of us would be—to try to assimilate the kin-



Ralph Ellison.

dred theme into the big novel? Mr. Ellison laughed a little. "I could see," he said, "it was not part of the novel because it had to do with a more mature character. While thematically it was part of the book, it nevertheless would have required different treatment; its reality wasn't as intense, as surreal, as the reality of the novel."

Henry Jones
THAT was pretty much that then. Mr. Ellison continued. "Several reviews pointed out

their business." What about the business (wasn't it nonsense?) of being a Negro writer? Wasn't one a writer who happened to be a Negro? Mr. Ellison tackled the question with what could only be called a beautiful honesty. "The thing that's forgotten is that everybody has to master his craft or profession. Without the mastery no one is free, Negro or white."

You remember Hemingway saying he'd fought a draw with Balzac or whoever? Well, it's not because it is in this problem, but because it is in this problem, that the American human conflict is at its most intense and dramatic. That's a rough way of putting it. What is exciting about it is that it hasn't really been written about except in a sociological way. That which for the sociologist presents it-

parts of the book they consider surrealistic. I'll agree a street crossing with that; however I didn't by throwing in select the surrealism, the dis-aginary bombs at tortion, the intensity, as an ex-the cars. Of perimental technique but be-course, the traf-cause reality is surreal. I used fic flowed on to get this same sense of a dis-quite normally. Ellison tackled the question with what could only be called a beautiful honesty. "The thing that's forgotten is that everybody has to master his craft or profession. Without the mastery no one is free, Negro or white."

I'd come every once in a while reliving a trauma on a shell-shocked veteran of ma. But people used to it World War I. It were used to it profession. Without the mastery no one is free, Negro or white."

lem and he used normally about

self as racial conflict becomes for the novelist the American form of the human drama. In Faulkner, Negro and white are catalyst for each other. If Faulkner could have found a more intense catalyst, he would have used it."

Books of The Times

By ORVILLE PRESCOTT

RALPH ELLISON'S first novel, "The Invisible Man,"* is the most impressive work of fiction by an American Negro which I have ever read. Unlike Richard Wright and Willard Motley, who achieve their best effects by overpowering their readers with documentary detail, Mr. Ellison is a finished novelist who uses words with great skill, who writes with



Ralph Ellison

poetic intensity and immense narrative drive. "Invisible Man" has many flaws. It is a sensational and feverishly emotional book. It will shock and sicken some of its readers. But, whatever the final verdict on "Invisible Man" may be, it does mark the appearance of a richly talented writer.

Ralph Ellison was born in Oklahoma and educated at Tuskegee Institute. He has shined shoes and played the first trumpet in a jazz orchestra. He has studied music and sculpture, lectured on Negro culture and James Joyce, written short stories and literary criticism. In "Invisible Man" he has written a book about the emotional and intellectual hazards which beset the educated Negro in America. He has written it on two levels. The first is the level of story-telling, the second that of exaggeration, suggestion and symbolism.

Its Comedy Is Savage

"Invisible Man" is much more successful in the first respect, it seems to me, than in the second. Mr. Ellison has a grand flair for gaudy melodrama, for savage comedy, for emphatic characterization. He is not interested in literal, realistic truth, but in an emotional, atmospheric truth which he drives home with violence, writing about grotesquely violent situations. With gruesome power he has given "Invisible Man" the frenzied tension of a nightmare.

This is the story of the adventures, shocks and disillusionments of a young Southern Negro, a naive idealist with a gift for spontaneous oratory, who journeys—almost like Bunyan's pilgrim—through Harlem's slough of despond, but who never reaches the other side. It is told in the first person and is divided into a series of major episodes, some lurid and erotic, some ironic and grotesque. The breathless excitement and coldly sardonic humor of many of these are superb.

The nameless narrator learns his first important lesson in disillusionment at a Southern Negro college when he discovers that the president he admired humbly is a cynical hypocrite. He learns more in a surrealistic horror of a paint factory on Long Island; more still during his service in the "Brotherhood."

The "Brotherhood" is Mr. Ellison's euphuistic synonym for the Communist party. Why he does not call the party by its real name is a mystery. But the identification is exact, and his befuddled hero's adventures among the "brothers" are a fine demonstration of thought control, party discipline, duplicity and treachery. Mr. Ellison obviously knows what he is talking about, and it is not pleasant. His hero experienced a brief hour of glory as an orator and then a permanent state of humiliation and despair. And the Harlem riot which the "Brotherhood" provoked makes a theatrical climax of looting and arson for Mr. Ellison's book. *Wed. - 4-16-52*

Varied Aspects of Negro's Plight

"Invisible Man" is undoubtedly melodramatic; but each melodramatic incident represents some aspect of the Negro's plight in America, or of his response to it. To this extent Mr. Ellison's novel is sharp and clear. But "Invisible Man" is not all melodrama. Parts of it consist of long and impassioned, sometimes hysterical, reveries which are frequently highly obscure. Other parts still seem grotesquely exaggerated or repetitious. And these strange interludes are overwritten in an ultra pretentious, needlessly fancy way. Spasms of torrential rhetoric, they obscure the point of some of Mr. Ellison's symbolical incidents and check temporarily the swift course of his story.

The bewildered and nameless hero of "Invisible Man" longs desperately to achieve a personal success and to help his people. But his role as a man acted upon more often than acting, as a symbol of doubt, perplexity, betrayal and defeat, robs him of the individual identity of the people who play a part in his life. These, while not subtly portrayed, have a vibrant life which makes them seem real and interesting. They include Dr. Bledsoe, the sanctimonious and unscrupulous college president; Mr. Norton, the Boston millionaire benefactor of the college; Lucius Brockway, psychopathic engineer in the paint factory; "Ras, the Exhorter," rabble-rouser and street prophet; Brother Jack, one-eyed and ruthless member of the "Brotherhood" committee.

"Invisible Man" is tough, brutal and sensational. It is uneven in quality. But it blazes with authentic talent. No one interested in books by or about American Negroes should miss it.

Question: Does the novel offer remedy?

JEHOVAH BLUES, by Marguerite Steen. (Doubleday \$3.50.)

In 1930, Aldebaran Flood, last of the shipping firm, was one of the leading novelists of England. She was sought in marriage by Orlando Sax, son of a marquess. She loved him. Why then did she refuse an answer to his proposal until the end of a lecture tour of four months in America? And why did she spend so much time in this country in a frenzied search for Lee Marion, author of the once popular "Jehovah Blues?"

In her quest she visited various large American cities, fruitlessly. Usually she searched in cheap

night clubs and low dives where she took to heavy drinking. At last she visited a distant cousin, Ruth Rodriguez, on her plantation near Charleston where Lee Marion was born. Why did she flaunt known Southern sensibilities to go calling in the Negro section of Charleston?

RUTH, WHO was divorced from a Cuban, had a daughter, 18-year-old Diamond, who had nymphomaniac tendencies. The mother had defied local opinion by employing Alger, a mulatto, as overseer of her plantation. Now Diamond pursued Alger, shamelessly. Twice Aldebaran prevented Ruth's discovery of the situation. But one night Diamond went to Alger's cabin. Aldebaran followed in the family car, arriving just as the girl threw herself into his arms. At the same time three Ku Kluxers appeared and wounded Alger who escaped into the swamp. To save Diamond from them she cold-bloodedly ran over and killed the leader of the Klan. By clever moves she covered her crime so well that she was allowed to sail for England on time, taking Diamond with her—she must get her to a country where she would not be considered colored.

THEY WENT TO PARIS and there Aldebaran, at long last, found Lee Marion—in a cheap dive. She left in disgust on discovering that he was nothing but a sensualist, utterly depraved. Back in England she promised to marry Orlando, if he would first read her diary of 1919.

Now, the secret of her past was out. At the end of World War I she had been the mistress of Lee Marion, a red-haired Negro, to whom she had borne a coal-black child that soon died. Orlando

himself was no Joseph, so the two lovers became engaged.

The main lines of the plot have been related because we feel they are necessary to an understanding of any comment on the book, the last of a trilogy on the Floods.

Surely deliberate miscegenation is not a satisfactory way to solve the color problem of the South. Of course the novel is a veiled attack on the South. However, the author, though English, shows more knowledge of the South and its views than many "Yankees" evince in their screeds directed at the South. To be sure, she twice refers to this section as "The beautiful but accursed South," but she does not preach, makes no attempt to resolve the problem of the color line in the South. She has struck at some of the injustices done the Negro. But does such a novel contribute any palatable remedy for them? This we doubt.

THE ONLY MOTIVE for Aldebaran's youthful sins is a vague desire to undo the wrong done the Negro race two centuries before by her family who were slave traders. But how can the giving of herself to a Negro accomplish that? It simply doesn't make sense.

The dialog is often earthy and brutally frank, but we are grateful that there is less of the nauseous profanity and obscenity than is common in contemporary fiction. Perhaps the best thing one can say is that Miss Steen's style is compelling. Often it almost rises to distinction.—H. M. AC-TON, professor of romance languages, Howard College.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Two recent books, one by Francis Biddle, former attorney general, and one by novelist Merle Miller, discuss present-day threats to our civil liberties. Mr. Miller calls his book "The Judges and the Judged." It is the report he made on black-listing in radio and television for the American Civil Liberties Union. Mr. Biddle's "The Fear of Freedom" is more general and examines historical precedents in both England and this country of the present-day hysteria of fear that characterizes some of the investigation of subversives.

In a comparatively brief account (255 pages), Mr. Biddle thoroughly examines the trend of events from the end of World War I to the present. "The present resort to repressive measures is a revival, perhaps even a continuation, of what took place after World War I," he writes. He looks at the state of affairs in England at the time of the French Revolution and compares it with present-day America, with a similar fear of the Russians.

Mr. Biddle underlines the dangers of the theory of "guilt by association," of secret hearings, or dismissals of government workers without a hearing. He does not question the need for investigations, but believes that all a citizen's civil rights must be protected. He writes with moderation and objectivity of the fear, which has been at times manipulated by publicity seekers.

The opening words of the book indicate Mr. Biddle's thesis: "Freedom and fear cannot live together in the same community on equal terms. The impulse to freedom is essentially tolerant, rational and mature. The form of fear tends to persecution, hatred and violence. The instinct to self-preservation soon becomes the urge to

destruction."

The author mentions also the tendency on the part of some investigators to brand as subversive those who are liberal in their attitudes toward Negroes.

"The Fear of Freedom" points up some of the real dangers facing the nation today. Mr. Biddle's background and experience equip him ably to discuss the issue. There is an introduction by the late Harold Ickes.

"The Judges and the Judged" discusses in some detail the black-listing of artists who have been branded as "undesirables," because of allegedly Communist activities. They were so branded by Red Channels, a weekly newsletter, in June of 1950. The American Civil Liberties Union asked Mr. Miller to make an investigation of the situation.

Mr. Miller found first of all that most of the persons to whom he talked were fearful and refused to be quoted by name. Many admitted that there was a black-listing, and that no attempt was made to question if the person involved actually was pro-Communist. In some cases, artists or writers or producers, who were actively anti-Communist were branded for membership in an organization in which they had fought Communist influence. Others were blacklisted for alleged membership in organizations, of which they knew nothing.

"The Judges and the Judged" is a frightening account of the hurt that can be done to individuals by irresponsible charges. Mr. Miller made a careful investigation of the industry and uses numerous quotes to illustrate the state of affairs. In conclusion, he writes: "Freedom is expensive. In wartime it is bought at the cost of lives; in peacetime, the price must be paid in terms of cool-headed courage. It is a price that Americans have a right to expect the leaders of one of its basic industries to pay."

"The Fear of Freedom," by Francis Biddle; Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison ave.; New York City; 1951; \$3.50.

"The Judges and the Judged" by Merle Miller; Doubleday and Company; 575 Madison ave.; New York City; 1952; \$2.50.

Psychologist Receives Award for Novel 'Kala'

By CATHERINE JAMEISON

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Dr. Isidro de Rieras is the 1952 winner of the coveted Huntington Hartford Foundation Creative Writing Award, which included a check for \$500 "to further his abilities in creative writing."

Dr. de Rieras was born in Houston, Tex., and graduated with honors from Yates High School there in 1939. He volunteered for the Air Force in World War II, became a fighter pilot, and was twice decorated before being honorably discharged in 1944. He entered the University of Southern California in 1945, was graduated with honors in 1948, and attended Southern California's Graduate School continuously since then. He holds the degree of Doctor of Philosophy with a major in psychology.

Last week the young author received an additional honor by being presented a special citation by the National Association for Study of Negro Life and History.

At USC, Dr. de Rieras has been active in numerous organizations, including the Council of Letters, Arts, and Sciences; the Trojan Glee Club; YMCA; the Touchstone Players, with whom he played leading roles in several stage and radio productions; the Honor Fraternity, Epsilon Phi, of which he was vice president; and the Know-Your-University Committee, which he originated.

Dr. de Rieras is a member of the national honor society of Phi Kappa Phi.

The Huntington Hartford award was for Dr. de Rieras' book, "Kala," a romantic story in a new form in which he combined the novel and poetic forms of writing. "I call my book a noem," Dr. de Rieras said, "because it embodies the characteristics of both the novel and the poem."

The award was presented by Dean Harry J. Deuel Jr., of the University of Southern California Graduate School, who read a letter from the Foundation saying that Huntington Hartford's choice of Dr. de Rieras "was arrived at after carefully screening many applications" for the award.

Dr. de Rieras is son of the Houston architect and engineer, Professor Jose de Rieras, and Mrs. Beatrice de Rieras of Los Angeles.



DR. ISIDRO de RIERAS
... gets creative writing award
Portrait by Wallace Seawell

for his outstanding contribution in the field of literature. Dr. de Rieras is a practicing psychologist and maintains his office at 2902 South Western Avenue, Los Angeles.

Dr. de Rieras is son of the

**Author's New Book
Draws Top Praise
From Walter White**

"Ladycake Farm," by Mabel Leigh Hunt, a new book to be published by Lippincott on April 23, was warmly praised in a recent letter received by the publishers from Walter White, executive secretary of the NAACP. The book is a family story of white and colored neighbors and the ways in which they may enjoy and help each other in our modern world.

Mr. White writes, "It is one of the most exciting, fascinating, heartbreaking stories I have ever read. In addition to reading it myself, I asked my ten-year-old stepdaughter to read it, and she is equally as excited about it. I don't believe any person — child or adult — can read the story without both enjoying and benefiting from it."

Ex-Postman's Short Stories Off the Press

ALCORN, Miss. — Wendell Howard, a Negro from Fayette, Miss., has just had published by Exposition Press Inc., a volume of short stories called "The Last Refuge of a Scoundrel."

Murder, dirty politics, a neurotic mule, a walking dead woman, a pair of clerks who stumble upon a body—all are here in one package of thrilling dramatics, sometimes funny, often serious, tales.

The author was born some sixty years ago in Fayette, Miss. After attending Alcorn A. & M. College he went into the postal service where he served thirty-seven years. He and his wife now live in Chicago, Ill.

Laughter, Tears and the Blues

LAUGHING TO KEEP FROM CRYING. By Langston Hughes. 206 pp. New York: Henry Holt & Co. \$2.75.

By BUCKLIN MOON

FEW writers have worn so well over the years for this reviewer as has Langston Hughes. There have been more important writers, perhaps, or others who worked a broader canvas, but few have been so versatile or as workmanlike. "Laughing to Keep from Crying," which contains pieces dating from as far back as the Twenties, is a short book, but it is a highly successful one.

In these twenty-odd stories, almost all of them concerned with minority groups, there is little special pleading, as such, and no attempt to show only the best in the people about whom Hughes is writing. What the reader senses, however, if he happens to be a human being, is that the worst of them are caught between their environment and our inhumanity to a point where it got to be more than they could handle. It is this quality, I think, which makes every story (with the possible exception of "One Friday Morning," which seems overly familiar because of similar stories which followed it) become amazingly fresh and free from the stereotype, and the self-consciousness of too much of our protest writing.

It could be said, I suppose, that these are not the best short stories that Langston Hughes ever wrote, but the best of them are very good, indeed. "Professor" is a highly successful story. It tells of the feelings of a Negro from the faculty of a small colored college in the South who is going to dinner at the home of a prominent Midwestern philanthropist where he will have to sing for his supper because of the job he

needs and knows he will get only if he Uncle Toms a little.

The story concludes: "As the car sped him back toward town,



Dr. Brown sat under its soft fur rug among the deep cushions and thought how with six thousand dollars a year earned by dancing properly to the tune of Jim Crow education, he could carry his whole family to South America for a summer where they wouldn't need to feel like Negroes."

Almost as effective, though the irony is directed in another direction, is "Trouble With the Angels," in which a young singer on the road with a successful Broadway Negro folk musical tries to get the rest of the cast to go on strike when they hit a theatre in Washington where Negroes are turned down at the box office—only to find "God" suddenly acting as a strikebreaker.

SOME of the shorter vignettes come alive with a sudden flash of imagery, or the poet's fine ear for the spoken word and the patterns of sound. Though less than two pages long, "Rouge High," the bitterly fatalistic story of two Harlem prostitutes, seems to hang in the air long afterward, like a song you want to forget but cannot.

Other stories are less successful; they seem a little dated, almost archaic, because in the meantime our racial thinking has subtly changed. None the less, each is the work of a "writer" in the finest sense of the word; for here is underwriting and an economy of

words that put to shame many a writer who has said less in an overblown novel than is often said here in less than a dozen pages. That is rare enough these days for special mention.



AUTOGRAPH TIME for Langston Hughes, noted poet and Chicago Defender columnist, at party given for Hughes by James Weldon Johnson Literary Guild at the home of Mrs. Roberta Bosley Hubert. Party marked publication of his new book, "Laughing to Keep from Crying." In photo are Mrs. Ida Cullen Cooper, (widow of the late poet Countee Cullen); Hughes; Eusebia Cosme, Cuba's leading reader of poems; poet Weston McDaniell, whose works have been translated into more than 100 languages, and Omotayo Aiyegbusi, Nigerian student in the U.S. on a Ford and Rockefeller grant. Defender photo by deMille.

BOOK REVIEW

Negro Author's Short Stories Show Subtleties of Behavior

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Laughing to Keep from Crying, by Langston Hughes. Henry Holt and Company, 383 Madison Avenue, New York. 206 pp. \$2.75.

I am only making a definition when I say that in the best work of Langston Hughes, simplicity and beauty are one. This is not as in the work of those who make simplicity the criterion, for simplicity for its own sake is an intemperance as much to be avoided as any other.

Make simplicity the test in writing, and you end up with the unilluminating literal, the uninspired "real," and with uninspired intelligibility. Simplicity actually is a matter of emotions rather than of intellect.

It is a way of seeing things, it is a kind of reaction to experience. And when this way of seeing things combines with a sense of beauty, then you have a Langston Hughes at his best.

He is at his best in Laughing to Keep From Crying, a collection of vignettes, stories and sketches. Nearly all of them have a sharp poignancy which derives partly from Hughes's sense of the tragedy that is frequently just below the laughing surface of life, and partly from the fine restraint with which he creates and recreates experience.



Mr. Redding

Reading him, one feels there is something more, something deeper and darker that he could tell us if he would and that yet is as ambiguous and as impossible to pin-point as the exact causes of adolescent's sadness on a June night when the moon is full.

Complete Works

Not that the pieces in Laughing to Keep From Crying leave one unsatisfied. They do not. They are complete, whole and even those that end without roundness—that at first seem to stop rather than end—give you a feeling of completion.

"Sailor Ashore" is such a piece. Nothing happens but an unsuccessful flirtation, and the sketch breaks off at the highest emotional point, there is no resolution, but, by heaven, you finish reading it with the strangest admiration for its fullness, and with the strongest sense that Azora and her sailor are each as real and eternal as human sorrow.

"On The Way Home" is another such piece. In "Mysterious Mad-

ame Shanghai," (which appeared in this magazine, March 15) Langston Hughes comes close to being fantastic, but he nevertheless has caught and illumined for us an old and elusive and precious truth.

Some of the pieces—"Who's Passing For Who," "Slice Him Down," and "Something in Common," for instance—are amusing in their details and make amusing though oblique comments on colored-white relations.

Others—"African Morning" and "One Friday Morning"—are not amusing and, instead of making oblique comments, speak as directly to the mind as to the emotions. But none is bald, bare. Each is subtle and, as I have said, poignant.

There are few American writers who come close to Langston Hughes's range, or who begin to approach his complex sensibilities. When he is good, he's superb, and in Laughing to Keep From Crying he is good.

LAUGHING TO KEEP FROM CRYING. By Langston Hughes. Henry Holt and Company. 206 pp. \$2.75.

Reviewed by

Sarah Patton Boyle

LANGSTON HUGHES was one of the first Negro writers, way back in the roaring twenties, to be read by "white" America, not only for the novelty of partaking of a Negro's point of view, but for sheer pleasure in good writing and in poignant emotion.

The hidden theme throughout is the suffering which all Negroes endure because of the white man's failure to grasp the truth that except in personal appearance, they are human beings exactly like ourselves.

As the cover blurb points out, Hughes "explores the subtleties of interracial behavior seldom revealed in fiction." This is certainly true. Yet it seems that he presents a more striking portrayal of the subtleties of interracial misinterpretation.

The deep, concealed wounds, the disappointments, the disillusionments which result from the white man's stereotyped conceptions of Negroes are poignantly set forth. But along with this conscious revelation is an unconscious revelation of another facet in this tragedy of errors: that of the Negro's stereotyped conception of the white man. In no story in the collection does this second masked spectre fail to rear its head.

The Negroes in the volume come warmly and humanly to life, while the whites stalk about like statues, bearing placards instead of characters. The placards all say, "This person is indifferent to the Negro's welfare. He is fixed in his determination to preserve white supremacy in some form. He is aloof, self-centered and chilly within." It's worth the price of the book just to get a look at ourselves as the Negroes see us.

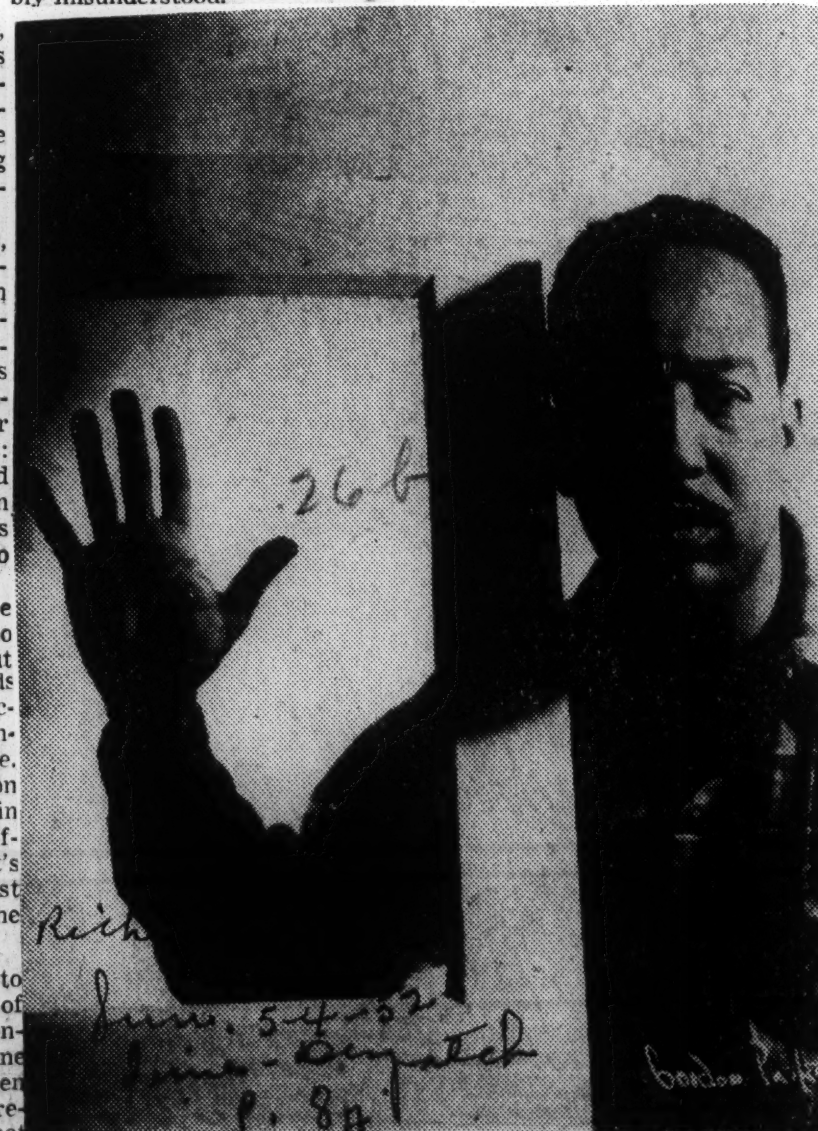
Also, it's worth something to have the maturing experience of learning how it feels to be generalized about. Suddenly one grasps what Negroes mean when they demand that they be regarded as individuals and not unfailingly dealt with as representatives of a group.

Perhaps the most significant story in the collection is "Professor." In it both stereotypes

spring into sharp focus—the one deliberately set forth, the other obtruding itself in the pathway of the narrative.

This story tells about the visit of a distinguished Negro professor to the home of a wealthy white couple who had promised to make a substantial contribution to Negro education. As they question him concerning the Negro's educational needs, he tells them what he thinks they want to hear—in order to secure the donation.

Both character and author are convinced that because these people are white they do not wish to know the truth. So the black professor lays himself, sighing, on a griddle of lies, and finally goes home in refreshed bitterness because Negroes are inevitably misunderstood.



The short stories of Langston Hughes, Negro writer, have just been published by Henry Holt.

Liberia's Rise As Ally, Trade Power Traced

LIBERIA, America's African Friend. By R. Earle Anderson. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press. 305 pages. \$5. *Atlanta, Ga.*

This is a valuable book about a land of potentially great importance to the United States of which too little is known. It makes interesting and entertaining reading.

P. 7. F
THIS LITTLE nation, the only republic governed by Negroes, is about equal in size to Louisiana or Ohio and is peopled by a ruling group of some 15,000 highly developed Americo - Liberians who are descendants mainly of American Negroes.

These descendants of colonists who were induced to leave America and establish themselves on the African coast by philanthropic societies now control approximately 2,000,000 natives who are just emerging from savagery.

The author describes the native customs, superstitions and tribal laws. He traces the importance of this country to America with respect to any future major conflict and its emergence as an important economic unit in world commerce. He devotes a great deal of space to the development of the Firestone rubber plantation and its economic impact on these primitive people.

* * *

IN ADDITION to being entertaining, this book gives a fresh insight into the character of the African Negro which is rare indeed. His information is gleaned from extensive research and from first-hand knowledge through months of contact with native peoples within Liberia itself.

C R

26b 1952

The Life and Times of Daniel Lindley, 1801-1880

**New book on Africa
to be published**

P. 13
NEW YORK—Biography of one of America's first missionaries to Africa will be issued by Library Publishers Mar. 26. Entitled "The Life and Times of Daniel Lindley, 1801-1880," it was written by Dr. Edwin W. Smith, author of numerous works on African history and affairs. Lindley penetrated deepest Africa by ox-wagon years before Livingstone, encountering such obstacles as hostility, burning of mission houses, and dangers to life and health. He became the first and only minister of the Apostles, and his 'parish' embraced Natal, Orange Free State, and Transvaal.

Books Published Today

ALWAYS NEW FRONTIERS, by George Pattullo (George Pattullo, \$3.50). A novel about the growth of a Southwestern city.

AMERICANS AT HOME, by David Macrae (Dutton, \$4.50). First American edition of a journal of a leisurely visit of America after the Civil War, originally published in 1871.

COMPOSER'S WORLD, by Paul Hindemith (Harvard, \$3.75). A study of the value of music.

DANCING TIME: Music for Rhythmic Activities for Children, by Satis N. Coleman, illustrated by Vana Earle (John Day, \$2.25).

A DRUM CALLS WEST, by Bill Gulick (Houghton Mifflin, \$2.50). A Western novel.

GRAND RIGHT AND LEFT, by Louis Kronenberger (Viking, \$3). Reviewed today.

GROVES OF ACADEME by Mary McCarthy (Harcourt, Brace, \$3.50). Reviewed today.

JASMINE STREET, by Clifford Dowd (Doubleday, \$3.95). A novel about a Southern family in the last fifty years.

LIFE AND WRITINGS OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS: Volume III, the Civil War, 1861-1865, by Philip S. Foner (International Publishers, \$4.50).

LOST WOLF RIVER, by Dwight Bennett (Doubleday, \$2.50). A Western novel.

MIGRATION OF BIRDS, by Frederick C. Lincoln, illustrated by Bob Hines (Doubleday, \$1). The distribution and seasonal movements of North American birds.

POEMS OF MR. JOHN MILTON, the 1645 Edition, With Essays in Analysis, by Cleanth Brooks and John Edward Hardy (Harcourt, Brace, \$5).

QUIET, PLEASE, by James Branch Cabell (University of Florida: Farrar, Straus & Young, \$3). A volume of personal reminiscences and reflections.

SCARED TO DEATH, by George Bagby (Doubleday, \$2.50). Crime Club detective story.

WIDOW OF BATH, by Margot Bennett (Doubleday, \$2.50). Crime Club detective story.

REPRINT. Fiction: Ask Me Tomorrow, by James Gould Cozzens (Harbrace Modern Classics: Harcourt, Brace, \$1.75).

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN *Defender*

With "Love Is A Wound," Worth Tuttle Hedden has successfully cleared the hurdle of a second novel. Her first, "The Other Room," was a tender and understanding story of an interracial love. The second book is longer and the emphasis is on the psychological development of the three principal characters. It is an interesting and unusual novel which shows the devastating effect on a family of a selfish and embittered woman.

The time is 1884 and the scene shifts from Bayport, N. C., in the opening of the book to the various cities where the Reverend David Humiston is called by the church. In Bayport, he pays some court to Ora Fanning, but it is her pretty sister, Ellen, whom he marries.

The book is concerned with the unusual triangle these three make; the spinster, Ora, the gay, young Ellen and the devout, God-fearing David. The title is taken from the writings of Marie de France and the full quotation is as follows:

"Love is a wound within the heart, and if it may not win its way out, it is an ill that lasts long, because it comes of nature."

With Ora Fanning, the ill did last long and since she lived with her sister and brother-in-law most of her life, their home became a scene of constant turmoil with her as the center. Their five daughters were all more or less affected by their aunt's conscious martyrdom.

Mrs. Hedden has been very skillful in the development of her three principal characters and with the minor ones as well. With Ellen and David, especially, she gradually brought forth their innermost thoughts and impressions and unfolded the depths of their

characters for her readers. She has used the technique of dividing her book into three parts, one of which is devoted to Ora, David and Ellen. The reader sees through the eyes of each in turn the events of the thirty-five years the book covers and the reactions of each to the others.

"Love Is A Wound" is a meaty novel which reveals the strength and the weaknesses of human nature. There is constant reference to relations between Negroes and whites and Reverend Humiston is at times at odds with his congregations because of his liberal views toward Negroes. Yet he, like others, is shown in a subtle way to be inconsistent in his attitudes. In North Carolina, where intermixture was frequent, there was a number of instances of servants who were related to their masters. Mrs. Hedden has handled these sub-plots with the same skill as the main theme.

"Love Is A Wound," by Worth Tuttle Hedden; Crown Publishers; New York City; 1952; \$3.75.

Book Reviewers Take A Bow

Doubleday and Company, publishers of "Anne Frank," handed book reviewers an accolade recently when they gave them full credit for the record-breaking sales of the book. "Anne Frank" is the diary of a young girl who hid with her family from the Gestapo for two years in an Amsterdam warehouse. She was 13 when she began her diary, but died in a concentration camp at Bergen-Belsen before she was 16.

Governor Thomas Dewey, who has appeared prominently in the news the past week, will make literary news this week with the publication of "Journey to the Far Pacific." The book tells of his tour of the Orient and will be the midsummer selection of the Book-of-the-Month Club. The publisher is Doubleday.

THE NEGRO PERSONALITY

THE MARK OF OPPRESSION, by Abram Kardiner and Lionel Ovesey (Norton;

(35). *new Republic*
Is THE association of Negro personality with hot jazz more valid than its association with the blues? Is there any real connection? Is it possible to sum up the personalities of 14 million people into one basic personality pattern, and if so, how is the total arrived at? Drs. Kardiner and Ovesey, practising psychoanalysts, think they know the answer, and in *The Mark of Oppression* show us how they attained it.

To the available statistical studies, historical research and other measurable data, the doctors have added the tools of psychodynamics: the psychoanalytic interview and the projective techniques—Rorschach and the Thematic Apperception Test (TAT). The heart of the study is a summary of the psychoanalytic interviews with the 25 subjects used by the authors and their assistants. We are faced with the immediate objection that the study of the basic personality of 14 million people is being derived from a consideration of the personalities of only 25 Harlem Negroes, about half of whom are being paid for having their brains picked. Nor do the doctors even mention the pertinent fact that the subjects, paid or otherwise, are expressing themselves to a white man. Each paid subject is given 20 interviews and then dismissed.

Twenty interviews are hardly sufficient to crack the racial antagonism—especially in the case of the naïve subject who feels he is being bought and therefore ought to perform. Thus in the matter of sampling and structure, the experimental design is hopelessly inadequate. Approximately 10 TATs were given; the results are not stated but only referred to in passing. The Rorschach Test, as used, incredibly totals the re-

sponses for 24 of the 25 subjects and then draws conclusions from the new figure. The interpretation of these records also neglects to consider that in such a test of perception the Negro's responses to shaded areas or to color blots are likely to be influenced by the strong emotional reaction he has to hue, light and dark, black and white. If all Negroes respond to chiaroscuro, perhaps it is not because they are all anxious (amazing homogeneity), but because they are all highly sensitive to light and dark.

2-4-52
Thus, in their own field, in the use of psychodynamic tools, where we might have expected the greatest exactitude, scientific rigor and new insights, Kardiner and Ovesey disappoint us. The picture is no less distressing in the sociological, anthropological and historical sections. As for sociological methodology, the authors frankly state:

P. 20
We are fully cognizant of the loose and unsettled connotation of such terms as upper, middle, and lower class. However, since these terms are used both in common parlance and in sociological treatises, we do not feel it is incumbent upon us to invent a new classification.

With regard to anthropological theory the authors accept Kardiner's concept that a basic personality exists, but do not explain upon what evidence they reach this conclusion with respect to Negroes living all over the United States in diverse socio-economic classifications and with only the fact of varying degrees of discrimination to bind them. Perhaps it is possible with as simple and homogeneous a society as the Tanala or the Comanche to arrive at a concept of basic personality, but it still remains to be shown how this approach can be fruitful in a society as complex as ours.

In addition, the book is saddled with two types of baggage that the liberal imagination delights in carrying: the

crude Freudian and the crude "progressive." On the one hand we find the statement, "The Western custom of beating on the buttocks probably originates in sphincter control," and on the other, the belief that the Negro who adjusts to prejudice and makes the best of his life is the *bad* Negro, the slave, the Uncle Tom, while the Negro who is miserable and suffers, but makes no adequate adjustment is a *better* person, more deserving. Finally, the doctors, like some psychoanalysts and authors, have not limited their scope; they give us dosages on the nature of political ideology and the mechanism of choice, or on the nature of popular culture in America—all on the same level as the origin of beating on the buttocks. For this the doctors themselves should be spanked.

2-4-52
Despite these findings, Kardiner and Ovesey have presented a sympathetic account of some of the effects of discrimination as revealed by the interviews: anxiety, low affectivity, self-hatred, depression. These are well documented, and a reading of the case histories is moving. It is a pity that the insights into such matters as the role of the absent father and the working mother, a new variation on the Oedipal pattern, are not presented in greater detail. It is also a pity that, while posing as scientists investigating a human problem, the authors have let their own sympathies run away with them. This discrepancy can only reinforce the current prejudice against social scientists who claim to be objective and then conduct studies which support the theories dearest to the experimenter's heart. This book will not benefit social science or help erase the mark of oppression.

DANIEL ROSENBLATT

Daniel Rosenblatt is engaged in postgraduate study in the field of Clinical Psychology at Harvard University.

Virginia U. Publishes Memoirs Of Ex-Slave

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va.—The the Journal of Negro History, and South added another page in the during the past month the recipient of a Fulbright fellowship for study in France. when the University of Virginia Press released an entire volume of works written and edited by a Negro. *Isaac*

The volume, "Memoirs of a Monticello Slave," by Isaac, is believed to mark the first time in the history of Southern educational institutions that the works of a Negro has ever been published by a university press other than the University of North Carolina. *Isaac 3-15-52*

The book consists of the recollections of one of Thomas Jefferson's slaves, Isaac, the son of Great George and Ursula, sometimes called Queen.

Isaac's intimate story of the people and doings around the Monticello home, deals with Jefferson's personal appearance, Richard Carey's swashbuckling habits when visiting, the source of the white blood among the Monticello mulattoes, protection of the livestock from the wolves, Governor Giles' unsuccessful courtship of one of Jefferson's daughters, and the daily routine of the home.

Details about the physical layout of the Monticello grounds are illuminating, and will surprise recent visitors to the restored Monticello, where the stables have been placed in the immediate vicinity of the dining room.

Isaac said the stables were 300 yards from the house. Isaac's description of the gardens as surrounded by a double row of palms ten feet high is also likely to surprise present day visitors.

Publication of the volume had been delayed from year to year since World War II for a variety of reasons. Luther P. Jackson, professor of history at Virginia State college in Petersburg, was to have edited the volume, but his sudden death intervened.

The book now appears with an introduction and notes by Rayford Logan, professor of history at Howard university, editor of



Journal of the
**Hampton Student
Aids Writing Book
On Sierra Leone**
*Nov 3 - 5 - 52
Norfolk, Va.*

HAMPTON, Va. — Alimany R. Wurie, of 1250 27th street in Newport News and of Sierra Leone, British West Africa, helped K. L. Little, Scottish sociologist, gather material for a book on his native land, the author's published acknowledgement reveals. Wurie, in his fourth year at Hampton Institute, is a biology major.

Title of the newly published book is "The Mende of Sierra Leone—a West African People in Transition." The author is a reader in Social Anthropology at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Publisher is R. and K. Paul, Limited, London.

The book is sponsored by the International Library of Sociology and Social Reconstruction, founded by Karl Mannheim. W. J. H. Sprott is editor of the series.

Noted Negro Author Guest Here At ASC

Miss Ellen Tarry, noted author of children's books, was the speaker at a special assembly at Alabama State College on Tuesday, in the annual observance of Book Week, sponsored by the library staff headed by Miss Ollie Brown, who presided at the service. *Admission*

Speaking from the theme for this year's observance "Reading is Fun," the author suggested that college students do some limiting of fun to the purpose of making our better world and declared that books are an open sesame to a better world. *Page 9*

She pointed out the fact that before our ancestors were torn from Africa, there was no written record of their accomplishments on that continent. *Continued*

The record of achievement of the American Negro, however, she declared to be one of the marvels of the world. *Continued*

The speaker admonished her listeners that there is no substitute for hard work or for common sense and urged the student body to be ever mindful of the fact that the Negro has a story to tell to the world.

Miss Tarry is a native of Birmingham where she was formerly a teacher. *Page 9*

The books which she has written for children are, according to her statement, a result of a course in creative writing which she pursued when she received a scholarship from the Bureau of Educational Experiments in New York City where she has resided for a number of years. *Page 10*

This scholarship permitted her to spend two years in the Writers' Laboratory at the Co-operative School for Student Teachers.

After free lancing for some years and writing for Catholic and Negro publications, in the early forties, her article "Native Daughter" attracted national attention. *Thurs. 11-20-52*

Her first book, "Janie Belle," a founding story, was published in 1940 by Garden City. "My Dog Rinty" with Marie Hall, et al collaborating, has had a second printing. This, along with many others, was a publication of Viking Press. *Page 9*

At the present time, Miss Tarry is engaged as community pub-

lic relations director for the St. Charles School and Community Center Fund, a project to raise a million dollars for Harlem.

William Swanson, Montgomery, a senior, gave a statement concerning Book Week, begun in 1919, and designed to encourage and stimulate more interest in reading for power and for pleasure.

The Laboratory High School students had an opportunity to meet the noted author through a special assembly planned by Mrs. Athalie W. Smiley, librarian. A luncheon provided opportunity for some faculty members and administrative officers to meet the honoree in an informal manner.

Miss Tarry's other southern appearances have been scheduled for Birmingham, Tuskegee Institute, and Atlanta University.

A Slice of Earthy Life

MITTEE. By Daphne Rooke. 312 pp.
Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company.
\$3. *Review Book*
By JOHN BARKHAM

SOUTH AFRICANS of Boer descent often bemoan the fact that the beauties of their young but sturdy language are inaccessible to the outside world. They will tell you, and with justice, that there is a music and a vigor in their tongue that merits a wider audience. Now comes a novel which, though written in English, is Afrikaans in conception, character and style. It was written by a young South African obviously as much at home in Afrikaans as in English; so much so that many passages read like translations from the one to the other. Some of the phrases that may strike readers as quaint or picturesque are actually literal renderings of old Boer idioms. Only a glossary can explain words like *opsit* (a Boer court-ing custom) and *jukskei* (a Boer outdoor game), or sentences like "A trap came flying down the road." *q. 4*

Miss Rooke has in fact given us a book that is as deeply rooted in Miss Rooke's native field as the Nagmaal gathering or the mimosa tree. Readers of her first novel, "A Grove of Fever Trees," will remember it as a peculiar yet compelling story about a group of hothouse characters living in Zululand. "Mittee," a dual selection of The Book-of-the-Month Club for February, is drenched in a similarly exotic atmosphere.

The place is the Transvaal, and the time that carefree period before the Boer War, when a man could sit on his stoep and be lord of all he surveyed.

Mittee, for whom the book is named, is a lovely and spirited girl from an old Voortrekker family, who marries a handsome farmer of fiery temper and then falls in love with an English missionary doctor. Mittee's boon companion is Selina, a half-caste girl, one of those unfortunates contemptuously known among the Boers as *kleurlings*. *2-3-52*

Thun. 2-3-52

TAKEN as a whole, the story has pace, color and a mood authentically South African. Miss Rooke's writing is so effortless, telling so much in so few words, that it is clear another literary talent has emerged from South Africa. The reader will not put this story down easily, or, having read it, soon forget its memorable picture of the Boers and their ways.

There is one weakness in the book, and a basic one. Miss Rooke has chosen to tell her story through the mouth of Selina, the colored girl, which is roughly equivalent to presenting a serious American novel through the eyes of an illiterate Southern cotton-picker. Selina is a feckless creature with the *ethos* of a barnyard sow; hence her narrative, no matter how graphic, is never a thing of grace. Miss Rooke would have done better to tell her story in the third person.

As in her earlier novel, the plot is spattered with crimes like murder, incest and miscegenation, and with characters who are either amoral or abnormal. If and when this book is published in South Africa, Afrikaners will probably resent her disagreeable picture of their ancestors, but Miss Rooke has history on her side. Readers in this country will find the book a fascinating, if occasionally repelling, introduction to the earthy life the Boers once lived.

Mr. Barkham, editor and critic, was born in South Africa and has written widely on that country and its people.

BOOK REVIEWS

by

GERTRUDE MARTIN

Daphne Rooke's second novel, "Mittee," has all the violence, exotic background and grotesque qualities of her first, "A Grove of Fever Trees." Miss Rooke is a South African who uses that locale to good effect as a setting for her book. To this setting she brings great narrative skill and an active imagination. The time is the period of the Boer War.

The heroine's name was Maria but she wanted always to be called Mittee. She was unconventional in this and many other ways, in her cursing, her courage and ingenuity and in her disregard for gossip once she found the man she loved. The reader sees her always through the eyes of Selina, her colored servant who tells the story.

The two had grown up together and in some ways were like sisters. But Mittee never allowed Selina to forget completely her position and there was a gnawing jealousy in Selina. This was especially so when she learned that Mittee was to marry Paul whom they had known since childhood and who fascinated Selina at the same time that he repelled her.

There is a wide variety of other characters including Paul's care-free brother, Frikkie, and his servant, Fanie, who is devoted to his mad mother, Rebecca; Andrina and Leon, the cousins in love; and Doctor Basil Castledene, the English missionary who plays an important part in the lives of Mittee, Paul and Selina.

Mrs. Rooke's women all have feminine flaws; in fact, Dr. Castledene is the only completely sympathetic character. That is not to say, however, that the reader does not sympathize with the troubles of Selina and Mittee.

In many respects Selina is the typical half-breed of fiction; beautiful, passionate, child-like, amoral, and often appealing. But she is a more stereotyped character than Mittee who can certainly qualify as "the season's most unusual heroine" to use the description in the jacket blurb.

"Mittee" is a book that the reader will not easily forget. Most of its characters have some of the wildness of its isolated setting.

It is the February Book-of-the-Month selection in combination with "Jefferson Selleck" by Carl Jonas.

"Mittee" by Daphne Rooke; Houghton Mifflin Company; 2 Park Street; Boston, Mass.; 1952; \$3.00

Prevention Of World War III Is Topic In President's Book

WASHINGTON, D. C. — President Truman — in a politically significant book published Monday claims that his administration's greatest achievement has been the prevention of World War III.

The book, entitled *Mr. President*, contains 65 thousands words from the Chief Executive's diary and discusses everything from Stalin to sex. **253 PAGES**

Despite the fact that Mr. Truman denies any political motivation, he nevertheless authorized publication of the extraordinary 253-page book in a presidential election year.

The book has immediately produced a storm of reaction. Henry Wallace said that if President Truman ever identified him as the Mr. X mentioned in the book, he will charge the Chief Executive with character assassination. The book blast Mr. X as intellectually unsound and a pacifist. Wallace demanded that the President confirm or deny that he was the Mr. X referred to.

GOV. BYRNES

Former Secretary of State Byrnes, meanwhile, branded as untrue a statement by the President that he once read Byrnes a letter taking him to task for failing to communicate directly with the President.

Sen. Homer Capehart (R) Ind.

declared Monday that President Truman once told him and three other senators that he was "more afraid of England and France than he was of Russia."

Capehart made the statement in a senate speech criticizing portions of the new book, *"Mr. President"* which was published today and brought immediate controversy in Washington and elsewhere.

The GOP Senator said the President's comment about England, France and Russia was made at a White House meeting in July, 1945, just before the end of World War II.

PRESIDENT'S BLESSINGS

Capehart's senate speech was touched off by this passage from *"Mr. President"*, a book written by William Hillman with the President's blessing:

"In July, 1945, Mr. Truman confided to his diary that he was not impressed by the views of four sen-

ators who had reported to him on a European survey.

ENGLAND AND FRANCE

"He said Europe had been through so many ups and downs that 'I am not impressed with the cursory glances of oratorical members of the famous cave of the winds of Capitol Hill.'"

Capehart, relating the White House episode, said that during the course of a talk with Mr. Truman former Sen. Wheeler (D) Mont., remarked: "Mr. President, you had better stand up to Russia."

The President, according to Capehart, replied: "I am more afraid of England and France than I am of Russia."

Capehart said Wheeler retorted: "Mr. President, you are too optimistic about Russia." The Indianan declared Mr. Truman shook his head vigorously and declared: "No, I am not."

Then, Capehart related, Wheeler remarked: "Get out your little memorandum book and write down what I'm telling you today. You are too damned optimistic about Russia."

Capehart said that besides Wheeler and himself those present at the White House meeting were Sen. McFarland (D) Ariz., now senate majority leader, and former Sen. Hawks (R) N. J.

The Book — "Mr. President"

The strange and unkindred composition of many men in one would not in the least be an extravagant appraisal of Mr. Truman as portrayed in the recent and sensational release of William Hillman's book — *"Mr. President."*

Mr. Truman's warm injunction — "I want the people to know me as I am" is the gripping phrase that seizes one and holds fast throughout the story. One really gets the glimpse of a fine spirit, genuinely and intensely American. A rich epic that Lincoln might have written now tells us that all of our great is not dead. While the president gives one to understand that he had to balance his own education after only finishing high school, here is science, philosophy, history, political economy and legal policy that could not in any wise be ascribed to a novice. The rich technique of music and the appreciation as well as the mastery of Mozart's Ninth Sonata, Scherzo, by Mendelssohn and Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, are modestly told in his accomplishments. The president dismisses his musical bent with the jovial comment: "Had I become a great musician, I would not have been president."

The president above all is a modest man; he dismisses the fact that he is related to President John Tyler with the simple statement: "He was a first cousin of my great grandmother, Nancy Tyler Holmes, but we never bragged about it because the family didn't think much of Tyler as a president."

The highlights in the book are the terse summaries hinged around tolerance.

Says he: — "The fundamental basis of this nation's law was given Moses on the Mount. The fundamental basis of our Bill of Rights comes from the teachings of Exodus, St. Matthew and Paul." And he significantly states, in the light of the present campaign for the presidency:

"If we don't have moral background, we will finally wind up with a totalitarian government which does not believe in Rights for anybody except **THE STATE.**"

All in all, the book brings to the hearts of the American people and the world, a plain, mild mannered many talented individual who will march on to immortality.

We urge all who can to read this great book about a great man. The price is only \$5.00 and now available at local book stores and book departments of the department stores.

BOOK REVIEWS

by P. H.
Hooper
GERTRUDE MARTIN

Harold Sinclair's new novel, "Music Out of Dixie," is the story of a young Negro musician, Dade Tarrant, who turned to music almost by chance, but found it his whole life. The setting is New Orleans in the years just preceding World War I, and many of the top figures in the musical world appear in it. Although I am not a jazz initiate, the atmosphere seemed authentic and the life of a struggling musical well drawn. To a great extent, "Music Out of Dixie" might be called a documentary novel which traces the course of Negro jazz in New Orleans and shows the restrictions on Negroes in the South as well.

The novel opens in 1905 in Algiers, the Negro fifteenth ward of New Orleans across the Mississippi from the city proper. Dade Tarrant's mother's death ended the precarious existence they had led, and he was taken to New Orleans to live with his great-aunt and uncle. He came to know Storyville, the night life section with its brothels, dope peddlers, and petty criminals of all kinds. It was while delivering dope to Doc, the piano player at one of the floosier brothels, that he first recognized the power of good music over him. The next step was to seek Doc's services as a teacher. From that point on Dade Tarrant was launched as a pianist and names like Bechet, Dodds, Noone, Ma Rainey, and all the New Orleans greats became familiar to him.

This is an unusual novel which reflects the author's interest in jazz which he expresses on the cover.

Oct-8-2-52
"One might say, I suppose, that in a way I have been writing "Music Out of Dixie" ever since

I first learned to blow a horn, to care more for New Orleans than any other city I know, to respect jazz as the great and original music it is and to use words to express some of all this in print."

Dade Tarrant's story is like that of Louis Armstrong in some respects but he is really a prototype of the Negro musician growing up in a restricted world. The story holds the reader's interest throughout and introduces a wide range of varied characters, all of whom seem human and believable.

"Music Out of Dixie" by Harold Sinclair, Knickerbocker and company, Inc.; 232 Madison ave.; New York 16, N. Y.; 1952; \$3.50
Definitive Life of Roosevelt

Little Brown and Company have announced the coming publication of a six-volume life of Franklin D. Roosevelt by Professor Frank Freidel of the University of Illinois. The first volume to appear November 6 will be called "Franklin D. Roosevelt: The Apprenticeship." It covers the life of the late president from his birth through World War I.

History of Christian Science

Another fall publication of interest will be "The Cross and the Crown" by Norman Beasley, a comprehensive history of Christian Science. Duell Sloan and Pearce — Little Brown and Company will be the publishers and the book will appear on October 14.

Attaway Book Reprinted

"Let Me Breathe Thunder" by William Attaway has been released in a 25 cent reprint by Lion Books. Mr. Attaway who has not published anything in recent years won considerable attention with his novel when it appeared quite a few years ago.

Jazz From New Orleans

MUSIC OUT OF DIXIE.

By Harold Sinclair. 306 pp. New York: Rinehart and Company. \$3.50.

Reviewed by

THOMAS SUGRUE

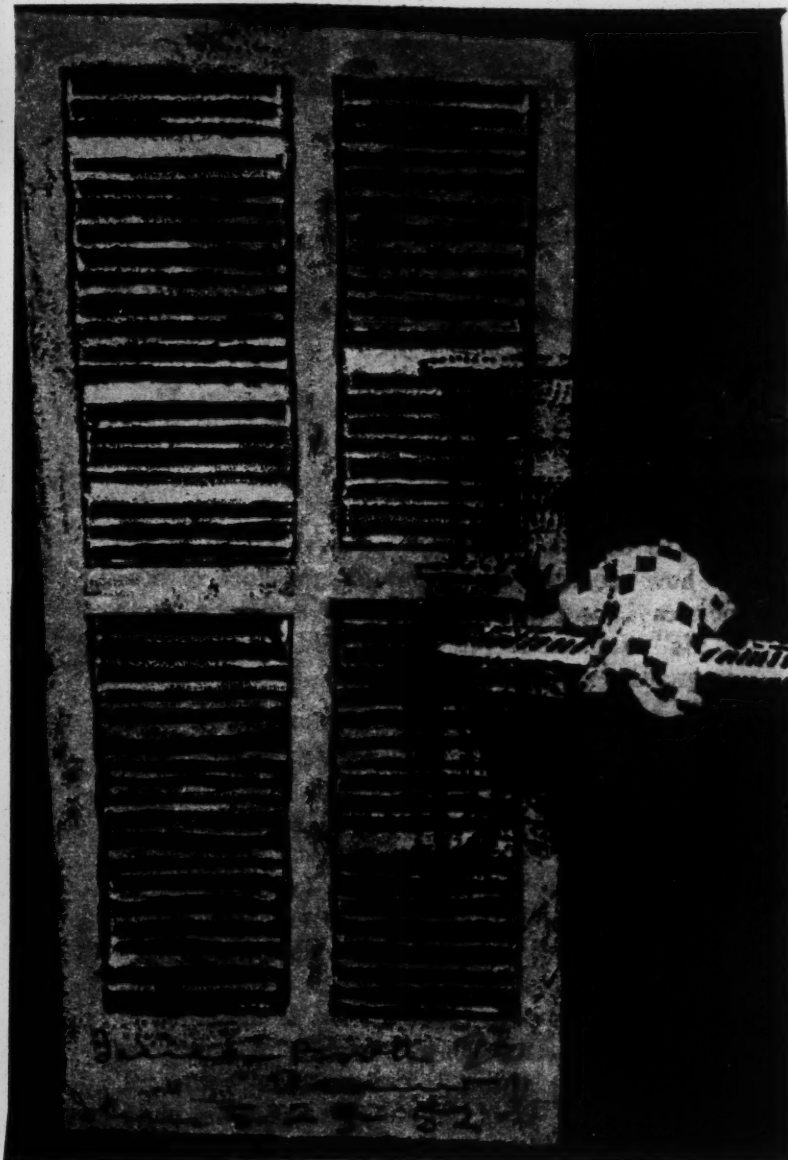
THE trouble with any book about jazz is that the reader can't hear the music, can't feel his blood react like tea water to a gas jet when the sounds of "Dippermouth Blues," "Sister Kate," or "Grace and Beauty Rag" pour out of the horns, piano and drums of a Dixie-land or New Orleans ensemble. The same fault inhabits books written about New Orleans as a place; it is a city of food and weather and people, and unless one can bathe in its humidity, eat in its restaurants and listen to its citizens talk about its history, the genius of the town remains theoretical. Since Harold Sinclair's new novel is about both jazz and New Orleans, he is, therefore, under a double handicap, and since he has chosen the documentary rather than the dramatic form for his narrative, there is little to sustain a man who likes plot with his story. Much of what happens to Mr. Sinclair's hero, in fact, has the air of that variety of truth which is stranger than fiction and which serves no purpose except to amaze and dismay.

The hero's name is Dade Tarrant, and he is a Negro born in New Orleans in 1898, who becomes in his teens one of the good jazz pianists of the fabulous Storyville section of the city, and who goes on after that to become a great clarinetist and a composer of jazz classics. When Dade first brought himself into focus and began to remember, he was seven and lived in Algiers, the part of New Orleans which lies on the other side of the Mississippi from the city proper. His father had been killed in a brawl and his mother worked all day as house servant to white folks; his home was a tenement room and he was alone and hun-

gry all day until his mother came home late at night. When she died of yellow fever he crossed the river to live with his great-uncle, and when he was fourteen he went to work shining shoes and running errands among the bordellos. One of his regular errands took him to Doc Peters, a jazz pianist in Storyville; Dade brought Doc cocaine, and Doc taught Dade how to play a piano. Jelly Roll Morton got the boy a job, and after that it was just one night's work after another, and a night's work in Storyville could mean almost anything.

Mr. Sinclair knows well the city and the music about which he writes, yet they do not come too vigorously to life; there is the odor of research in his descriptions of Storyville, and around his pictures of city life before 1914. In suggesting the inner loneliness of an orphan-boy he is more successful; Dade is so lonely, in fact, that nobody gets into his life or his mind very deeply, and it is a solo performance, rather monotonous at times, which emerges from "Music Out of Dixie." That isn't jazz—jazz is co-operative improvisation on a basic theme. Mr. Sinclair has the theme. His improvisation might have been livelier and more vigorous.

Thomas Sugrue is the author of "We Called It Music: a Generation of Jazz."



From the jacket design by Daniel Schwartz for "Music Out of Dixie."

The Birth of the Blues

MUSIC OUT OF DIXIE. By Harold Sinclair. 306 pp. New York: Rinehart & Co. \$3.50. P. 25

FOR the first time, a strong and honest novel has been derived from the rich materials of New Orleans jazz, the gaudy sinks of the late (but not very late) Storyville restricted district, and the teeming life of the city's Negro tenements, bars and honky-tonks. Here for once is a "new" phase of New Orleans, the first two slack-water decades of the present century when, as Harold Sinclair tells it, the metropolis seemed to be declining, decaying in the hot sun. Here are the unpaved streets of dark-town, with canny Negro poli-

ticians, throaty girl singers, madames, doped cornetists, characters like the Creep and a certain brothel pianist once known as John the Baptist.

In and around the old bawdy area, where blacks like whites lived off a score of interrelated enterprises, arose those throbbing notes that many, like Mr. Sinclair, regard as the only native music yet to arise in America. At times (its best times) "Music out of Dixie" has a fascinating documentary flavor. Not many recent novels have had so rare and ripe a background. Skillfully the author has drawn on biographical bits, authenticated remarks, recollections from many sources;

his pages have power and vitality and a fine lusty humor.

His central figure is Dade, a boy who might have been Louis Armstrong or Sidney Bechet or Clarence Williams or any of the others who broke forth seemingly from nowhere, to display the jazz genius' virtuosity in "mauling the supreme hell" out of horn or anything else on which they set hands. Underfed, Jim-Crowed, under the shadow of hostile law, they still blared down Basin Street to make American history, and their own kind of special joy.

Mr. Sinclair's Dade works as a shoe-shine boy, studies informally under a piano master, becomes entertainer at a joint and then tours the South with a minstrel troupe. He gets into trouble on a river boat; he has two or three girls, plays his part in the discovery of one of the great Negro women singers of the 1915 period; and then, from a low point in his career, gets a call to the East where the real New Orleans jazz was eventually to be toned up, or down, into something else.

THE book is episodic, fumbling in places; at several high moments Dade's emotions seem obscured. Nevertheless "Music Out of Dixie" remains an achievement—an unsentimental, sometimes brilliant evocation of scene and people, told with the sound and ring and smell of truth. Mr. Sinclair writes with economy and a warm identification with a subject obviously close to his own emotions. Any novel-reader who is also an aficionado of jazz will find this book a revealing excursion into the back alleys of our musical past, a convincing, on-the-spot report on the birth of the blues.

HARNETT T. KANE

College English Heads Edit New Text Readings

HAMPTON — English heads at Hampton Institute, Atlanta University, and North Carolina College at Durham have joined talents in editing a new anthology of readings, "My Life, My Country, My World," published this month by Prentice-Hall Inc., New York. The editors are Dr. Hugh M. Gloster, Hampton; Dr. N. P. Tillman, Atlanta, and Dr. W. E. Farrison, North Carolina College.

Preliminary reviews of the book have been favorable, and it is expected that the anthology will be adopted on its merits as a freshman textbook by colleges throughout the nation.

The selections cover a wide range of thought, from Francis Bacon to Philip Wylie, Plato to Harry Emerson Fosdick, Patrick Henry to Max Lerner, John Henry Newman to Albert Einstein.

ATLANTA PROF, CO-EDITOR OF NEW TEXTBOOK

ATLANTA, Ga. — Dr. Nathaniel P. Tillman, chairman of the department of English at Atlanta University, is co-editor of the new college text, "My Life, My Country, My World." Other editors are Dr. Hugh M. Gloster, Hampton Institute, and Dr. W. E. Farrison, English department chairman at North Carolina College.

Women's

New York AKA's take the news spotlight on two counts this week. The sorority's Speakers bureau there has started a new program to help find homes for foster children. They will be working with the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies On the other count, the AKA's gave a pre-holiday soiree that proved to be quite successful and quite swank in an exclusive setting. Gloria Oden, Howard university graduate, gets her first book, a volume of poetry titled "The Naked Frame" published by the Exposition Press of New York City Two attractive additions made to the faculty of Rust college, Holly Springs, Miss., in the persons of Misses Elaine Rowena Bloom and Mable N. Jones. Phi Delta Kappa sorors are busy making plans for their national conclave to be held in Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 26-30. Over 500 teachers are expected to attend the meet. . . .



GIFTED NEW POET. — Gloria Oden, Howard university graduate, is the author of a book of poetry, "The Naked Frame," recently published by the Exposition Press of New York City. This first volume by the young poet tells of a woman deeply in love and the emotional impact which is the resultant by-product. In private life she is the wife of James T. Wright, a practicing lawyer in Washington, D. C., and Arlington, Va. Photo by M. Smith.



J. A. Rogers causing sensation with his "Nature Knows No Color-Line," proving pictorially and otherwise that Europeans more heavily tar-brushed than old U. S. white families. An astonishing tome which does not exclude British royalty. (J. A. Rogers, 37 Morningside Avenue, New York. \$5).

Tomorrows' Challenge

A New Book About The Negro

By H. A. Bullock

One of the better books dealing with the early aspects of Negro life is Dr. Henderson H. Donald's *The Negro Freedman* (New York: Henry Schuman, 1952). The volume deals with the infant years of emancipation, when some four million slaves became free and got their first taste of what they thought to be a free society. The study deals with the results of the attempts of Negro freedmen to adjust to the changed conditions inherent in their emancipation. All the pathos and comedy, all the heart aches and joys of an emancipated people are made to live again in the mind of the reader as he thirstfully follows the pages of this volume.

Told in an anecdotal manner, the author presents a factual analysis designed to portray the life conditions of Negroes during the first three decades after their emancipation from slavery, when the race members were commonly called "Freedmen." Opening with a running account of the Negro's reactions to freedom, the author moves on to tell a story of how the Freedmen learned to earn a living; to secure the necessities of life; to get an education and worship God; to fight disease; to overcome crime; and to secure political rights.

The entire study, a factual story that it is, adds up to the possible conclusion that emancipated slaves—rendered of their shackles—became free from one oppression only to fall into another. Although the facts allow for this conclusion, one gets the feeling as he reads the book that the author is pulling his punches on this score. He writes with a give and take pen—submitting one documentary piece of evidence to show the unfairness and the exploitation that was furthered by emancipation, only to present another that almost justifies the exploitation. The volume is written with such objectivity that neither the conservative nor the liberal element of the South can get offended about its contents.

Probably the most beautifully treated phases of the book are those dealing with the anthropology of superstitions. Here is presented with a variety of documentary sources evidence to support the proposition that any people, faced with life situations that challenge them beyond the limits of their scientific knowledge, will resort to the occult and the mental frame of a false or pseudo science to explain that which they do not understand and to bring some kind of order into their lives.

That this is a folk necessity—that it is absolutely essential for the mental balance of any people regardless of their race is well emphasized by the author. The following passage is an example of his expression in this regard: "Everywhere superstition reigned among the Negroes. They had a sign and meaning for everything, and could scarcely move without running counter to some superstition. The larger number were concerned with daily events that their ignorance translated into signs and wonders." In his "commentary" on this portion of his documented work, the author explains that "this is always true of peoples occupying the lower stages of culture."

Another interesting feature from the point of view of folk culture is the manner in which the author showed how varies aspects of what we know as southern Negro culture were derived. His best examples are found in his illustrations of the processes by which Negro hymns were originated. One can not help from appreciating this portion of his work, for Dr. Donald seems to spare no scholarship in supplying evidence for the conclusions he inevitably draws at the end of various chapters.

On the whole, the book merits the attention of all Negro leaders. Especially will those who sponsor book-review clubs find it good program materials. Scholars—college teachers and others, that is—will find the volume inspiring if for no other

reason than the fact that it is beautifully documented and dramatically illustrated.

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

The Negro Freedman, by Henderson H. Donald. Henry Schuman, Inc., Publishers; 20 East 70th Street, New York. 270 pp. \$4.00.

Though at first glance it may not seem so, *The Negro Freedman*, by Henderson H. Donald, is a distinguished contribution to American social history.

Others—notably W. E. B. DuBois and, more recently, the Johns Hopkins' historian Vann Woodward—have treated with the subject, but, excepting DuBois, they have treated with it in a context that permitted no lengthy concentration on the freedmen.

Sometimes, moreover, the frame of reference has been not only oblique but askew. Sometimes historians have assumed too much, or they have taken for granted the validity of the old assumptions—the historical imperative, the prejudice, the romanticism.

Dr. DuBois' *Black Reconstruction* was an effort to counteract the obliqueness; but *Black Reconstruction*, though a good and an important book, is an angry book and can be called truly scholarly only by courtesy.

Dr. Donald's book is the first this reviewer has seen that deals exclusively and disinterestedly with the colored people from 1865 to the end of Reconstruction.

A Study

It is a socio-historical study. Be-



cause it is a study (as opposed to both narrative and polemic), it sometimes makes dry reading, and the bare bones of scholarship obtruding on the mores are the principal means by which man makes his adjustments to societal life. "This being the case . . ." and the interpretation, which has all of the scholar's undaring caution, ("It seems that . . ." "Perhaps it may be assumed . . ." "One must be careful to . . .")

But if such overcautiousness be a fault, as I think it to be, Dr. Donald nevertheless has thrown a revealing light into a dark corner. As his chapter headings indicate, he sets forth all the problems that confronted the freed-

men and tells what solutions they found for them.

Dr. Donald never makes these solutions as dramatic as they sometimes were in actual fact, nor as "real" as they are sometimes made in fiction. "The Negroes," he says unemphatically, "were frequently molested by the Ku Klux Klan."

It seems to this reviewer that the facts add up to more than this weakly uttered truth.

(Scholarship too frequently seems distrustful of its own means, and this puts it in the case of a man who wishes to take a five hundred mile motor trip but, no faith in his motor, contents himself with a drive around the block.)

Dr. Donald's book, though, is an original contribution. The lay reader will not find it totally absorbing. He will not keep it open when the drinks are served, but he will, I think and hope, pick it up again the moment the cocktail hour is over and perhaps also he will go back to it after dinner.

26b 1952

Negro Freedman: Life Conditions of the American Negro in the Early
Years After Emancipation

NEGRO FREEDMAN: Life Conditions
of the American Negro in the
Early Years After Emancipa-
tion by Henderson H. Donald
(Henry Schuman, ed.)

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

had been foresighted in insisting that her daughters learn household tasks.

Manie Morgan's refusal to accept the man of her mother's choice, and her decision to marry Captain Morgan of the Union Army showed how far the Morgans had shifted in political sentiments during the War Years.

"The New Stars" is as interesting as fiction. It is a very human document which, though colored perhaps, by age and the long interval before these events were recorded, still has the ring of truth. It is a vivid record of a stirring time in our history, and there will be few readers who will be able to resist its simple appeal. Without the fanfare of publicity, it has been buried under the large flood of books which appear each year, but it is well worth seeking out.

"The New Stars" edited by Louis Filler; The Antioch Press; Yellow Springs, Ohio; \$3.75.

"The New Stars," a book about life on a Missouri plantation during the Civil War and the years preceding it, has only recently come to my attention. Although it was published over two years ago by the Antioch Press, it did not receive widespread notice. Yet, it provides an extremely accurate and interesting glimpse into the lives of inhabitants of the border states during the struggle between North and South. It was told by Manie Kendley Morgan to her daughter, Jennie, and has been edited by Louis Filler.

The book tells in detail of Manie Morgan's childhood and young adult life in Buchanan County, Mo. Born in 1848, she lived until 1938, a long, full life, which saw many changes in her country. Her reminiscences are not primarily concerned with these changes, however, but chiefly with her personal life and that of her family.

The book is written in plain, simple language, but somehow it captures the urgency of the period. Missouri was plagued with raiders from both sides of the slavery controversy, and life was often difficult for the Morgans, since the father of the family had died. The reader is given a detailed picture of the family and of the slaves, who were evidently devoted to the Morgans.

Plantation life was not easy for the mother or the 3 daughters. A large part of their time was consumed in the endless weaving and sewing of clothes for slaves, as well as for their own use. Once the raiders started stealing produce and stock, existence became increasingly hard. Then, when the slaves were taken away, the family found that the mother

26b 1952

NIGHT THORN

Barnes, \$1.50). A book in the Barnes Sports Library. Night Thorn, by Ian Gordon (Dial, \$3). A novel about a Texan who becomes involved in the race problem.

"The Night Thorn" by Ian Gordon, will be issued in March by Dial Press. It is a story about a white Texan boy, who finds his only haven in New York's Harlem. Although Mr. Gordon is the author of several suspense detective stories, the coming book is his first serious novel.

Founding The New South

ORIGINS OF THE NEW SOUTH, 1877-1913. (Volume IX of *A History of the South*), by C. Vann Woodward. (Louisiana State University Press. \$6.50.)

Southern Historical Association, it is, in the opinion of this reviewer, one of the two most valuable published volumes in this significant series on the history of the South.—HENRY T. SHANKS, Birmingham-Southern College.

This is the first adequate general treatment of this significant but relatively neglected period of Southern history. In a penetrating analysis, which is based largely on original research, the author gives a revealing picture of the great changes in Southern life during 1877-1913. It is an examination of what the publisher calls the "founding of the New Order of the present South that was constructed on the ruins of the several orders of the past."

Starting with the redemption of the state government by the Southern conservatives, Mr. Woodward shows that in nearly every state the old Whig element, which favored business interests, gained control in 1877 by alliance with Eastern conservative Republicans, who offered more to the South than the Northern Democrats, the Southern conservatives made an agreement not to prevent Hayes' election if the Northern Republicans would agree that federal troops should be removed and that federal aid should be given to Southern railroads. Although because of rival railroad interests and because of the Granges, the alliance soon broke down, it enabled Southern conservatives to obtain control of their state governments and encouraged them to follow a course approved by Eastern capitalists. This helped develop Southern railroads and eventually brought an industrial revolution which more than anything else transformed Southern life.

The conservative element which controlled Southern governments until the Populists entered the picture, kept the race issue in abeyance. In fact, they used the Negro vote to keep control against the discontented small farmers. But with the Populist uprising the race question again was brought into the political contest. From the ensuing conflict came the disfranchisement of the Negro. Race hostility continued to be agitated for political purposes, even though Booker T. Washington did much to reconcile the races by courting the favor of the whites and by accepting for his race a subservient position.

The race problem, politics and industrialism are only parts of the story of this volume. The author devotes much space to the plight of the farmer and his revolt, to the rise of the Southern legend, which was partly developed to further political and economic interests of certain individuals, corruption in the Democratic as well as the carpetbag governments, the South as a colony of the East, the caste system, intellectual and educational awakening, public health reforms, Knapp's significant agricultural crusade, and the return of the South to national political prominence. It covers all phases of Southern life. Although the author is sometimes critical of the Southern leaders, he has much that will warm the heart of the Southern apologist.

This story is indispensable for an understanding of the present South. The work of the master craftsman, the president of the

OUR HOT BED STORY



INSTRUCTOR—Ella A. Tackwood, supervisor of Ware County, Georgia, and author of "Our Hot Bed Story," is an instructor in the Atlanta University Department of Education Summer School this year.

S. F. firm publishes book on Cal Negro by Mrs. Thurman

SAN FRANCISCO—Acme Publishing Co. here has released "Pioneers of Negro Origin in California," an attractive spiral-bound booklet of 12 chapters, presenting formally, and for the first time, the history of the Negro in the early development of California, and of the West Coast.

The author, Sue Bailey Thurman, is wife of the renowned religious leader, Dr. Howard Thurman. Mrs. Thurman collected the material over 7 years, during which extensive research was conducted in leading libraries throughout the state, and personal interviews arranged with "oldest settlers" and descendants of Negro men and women, recognized as outstanding heroes of the Gold Rush period of 1849.

On the book is the story of Leidesdorff, who came to San Francisco from New Orleans in 1842, as a master of sailing vessels, and launched the first steamboat ever to sail the San Francisco Bay. At his death in 1848, having served as Vice-Consul to Mexico, he was regarded as one of the wealthiest men in the West. The fabulous stories of men and women who came to the State as slaves—Dennis, Coffey, Rodgers, Mason, purchasing their own freedom, and that of their families, with thousands of dollars in gold nuggets, are given. Daniel Rodgers is cited particularly for having made the trek from Arkansas to California, with a family of small children, traveling alone in a single covered wagon drawn by an ox team.

Included also are: J. B. Sanderson, father of education for Negro youth in the West; Mary E. Pleasant, mother of civil rights in California and contributor of \$30,000 to the cause of John Brown; and Mifflin Gibbs, publisher of the first official organ of a minority group on the West Coast, later appointed a federal judge in the United States and Consul to Madagascar.

The 100-year-record of three major religious denominations, the Baptists, AME's and AME Zions, all of whom celebrate centennials in San Francisco, in 1952, is given.

As a writer, Mrs. Thurman recently gained international readership in being chosen one of 12 women—two English and 10 Americans, to contribute to the Anthology, "Meditations for Women," with introduction by Dorothy Canfield Fisher.

Book may be ordered direct from Acme Publishing Co., P. O. Box 2496, San Francisco 26. Price is one dollar, plus State and City sales tax.

Pioneers of Negro Origin in California

Noted Clubwoman Is Author of New Book

By LIBBY CLARK

LOS ANGELES—Recommended good reading is a newly published book entitled "Pioneers of Negro Origin in California" authored by Sue Bailey Thurman, nationally known clubwoman, writer and wife of Dr. Howard Thurman of Fellowship Church, San Francisco.

Simplicity of Mrs. Thurman's writing style makes the book easily enjoyable by children and adults alike. Its contents are highly informative and enlightening.

Tracing Negro progress and colorful pioneers over a period of a 100 years in California, Mrs. Thurman reviews incidents in the lives of such renowned persons as Mifflin W. Gibbs, Biddy Mason, Alvin Coffey, Daniel Rogers, Moses Rodgers, Williams Alexander Leidesdorff, Mary E. Pleasant, J. B. Sanderson, and a host of others.

In her works, Mrs. Thurman also pays glowing tribute to the late William Nickerson, founder of Golden State Mutual Life Insurance Company and the Durals depicting the life of early Californians in the lobby of the company's main office at Western Avenue and Adams Boulevard.

The book was released the first of the month in time for the numerous Negro History Week activities and is priced at a dollar per copy. It was published by the Acme Publishing Company.



DESCENDANTS OF NEGRO PIONEERS of the California Gold Rush pose with Sue Bailey Thurman, author of "Pioneers of Negro Origin in California" and Dr. Hugh Baker at a luncheon in her honor in the Nob Hill Room of the Fairmont hotel in San Francisco, Calif. They are (seated, first row from left)

Mrs. Thurman, Mrs. Leona Headen, David W. Ruggles, Mrs. George McCard, Lora Toombs Scott, Helen Williams Shands, Marian Logan Williams, Grace Logan, Ora Williams Jones, Margo Lewis, Violet Rodgers-Sessions, Alice Simmons-Carey, and Dr. Baker. In the second row (from left) are Meba Whit-

taker, Barbara Crawford, Bernice Crawford, Miriam Rogers, Theresa Danley, Harry O. Johnson, Margaret Danley, Mrs. Theresa Danley, Nellie Logan-Lewis, Peter Williams, Harriet Smith and Florence Wysinger Allen.

PLANTATION COUNTY. By Morton Rubin. University of North Carolina Press. \$3.50. This volume, the first of the *Field Studies in the Modern Culture of the South*, prepared under the direction of John Gillingham, describes the present social strata and ways of life in a typical Black Belt county with a population of 5,000 whites and 20,000 Negroes. The author is a Jew, a Bostonian, and a cultural anthropologist, but in spite of what must locally have been considered three strikes against him, he seems to have been successful in winning the confidence of the people during the year that he spent among them. A useful addition to our knowledge of the economic and social patterns of American life.

**Tallahassee Staff
Member Has Two
Pieces Published**

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Emily A. Copeland of the Florida A and M College library staff has the distinction of having two articles published in recent issues of two magazines.

Her article — "Professional Growth of College Teachers" appeared in the December, 1951, issue of *Educational Administration and Supervision*, a magazine which provides a wide range of professional reading material for persons who are responsible for teachers in training and those in service.

Former Southern professor cited

Dr. Brewton Berry, a member of the Birmingham-Southern College faculty, 1928-29, now professor of sociology at Ohio State University, has received the \$1000 Anisfield-Wolf Award.

Dr. Berry received the award for his book, "Race Relations," published last year by Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston.

The volume is the first textbook to receive one of the awards, which were established 18 years ago by Mrs. Edith A. Wolf of Cleveland, in honor of her father and her husband.

The awards—two each year—go to the best books dealing with problems of racial and nationality group relations.

Book Wins \$\$\$

COLUMBUS, Ohio—Dr. Brewton Berry, professor of sociology at Ohio State University, has received the \$1,000 Anisfield-Wolf Award for his book, "Race Relations," published last year by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

Dean Completes Liberian Survey

GREENSBORO, N. C. — (ANP) —

A complete analysis of the soil and agricultural possibilities of Liberia has just rolled off the presses of the U. S. Government Printing offices. *P. 4 26-52*

Entitled "Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Liberia," this book is written by Dr. William E. Reed, dean of the School of Agriculture, Agricultural and Technical College of North Carolina. *Dean*

Dr. Reed made this study while he was serving as a foreign staff officer for the U. S. Department of State, 1944 to 1948.

In this volume, he discusses the general geography of the country, the classification of the soils, agriculture and soil management, and policies for future land use.

A&T Dean Finishes Scientific Survey Of Soil in Liberia.

Beach Dispatch
GREENSBORO, N. C. — (ANP) —

A complete analysis of the soil and agricultural possibilities of Liberia has just rolled off the presses of the U. S. Government Printing offices. *1-19-52*

Entitled "Reconnaissance Soil Survey of Liberia," this book is

written by Dr. William E. Reed, dean of the School of Agriculture, Agricultural and Technical college of North Carolina. *P. 10*

Dr. Reed made this study while he was serving as a foreign staff officer for the U. S. Department of State, 1944-48.

Beach Dispatch
In this volume, he discusses the general geography of the country, the classification of the soils, agriculture and soil management, and policies for future land use.

The pamphlet also contains numerous statistics and charts about the soil of Liberia. It sells for 25 cents, and may be ordered from the superintendent of documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C.

The Precious Individual

THE REPUBLIC AND THE PERSON.

A Discussion of Necessities in Modern American Education. By Gordon Keith Chalmers. 255 pp. Chicago: Henry Regnery Company. \$4.

MILDRED McAFEE HORTON

ADVOCATES of liberal education have been on the defensive for a long time. Gordon K. Chalmers, president of Kenyon College, arms them in "The Republic and the Person" for an aggressive attack on their critics. Mr. Chalmers presents a liberal education as the only kind which can equip the student to deal adequately with the tough realities of the modern world. Whereas a liberal education is sometimes treated like the frosting on the academic cake, Mr. Chalmers presents it as the pièce de résistance.

The kind of education he proposes is that which has as its aim and end "the understanding of ourselves, our kind, and what surrounds us." The tendency in recent years has been to stress an understanding of the law of things and to try to create mass attitudes toward immediate problems. Mr. Chalmers insists on the central importance of the laws of man: "It cannot be too often repeated that nothing is more certain in modern society than that the continuance of the republic is based on the quality of the individual and his education as a person, and that liberty is based upon belief in the understanding of moral law."

The emphasis on man as person in social relationship is no new insight into educational function. It is, indeed, a reminder of "the ancient and central task of converting the reason—of converting it from the knowledge and love of what is mean to the knowledge and love of what is worthy."

The America we know is built around "the affirmation of the value of the individual and his responsibility." It is important to the nation's future that its citizens should be sure that



Sculpture by Koren Der Harootian. Courtesy the artist.
"Thinker."

they not only recognize but analysis of that evidence is genuinely understand the justification for and the meaning of that affirmation. Mr. Chalmers discovers in literature and life nondogmatic evidence of the validity of that proposition, a proposition which he reminds us is asserted also by the great Jewish-Christian tradition. His

A HYPERCRITICAL sociologist might press the question as to whether the evidence would be convincing to observers outside a religious tradition that includes in its doctrine the inherent worth of personality.

But American readers are not outside that tradition. They will be interested in the process by which a scholar like Mr. Chalmers poses and answers the question, "whether the individual is precious and whether he is, in fact, responsive to the law within." His answer is a ringing affirmative: "History shows it, and poetry, encompassing history and transcending it, knows it for a truth."

THERE is meat in this volume for hungry minds. There is penicillin in it for the infection of "disintegrated liberalism," which has been the bane of liberal education. There are practical suggestions for administrators and teachers and for counselors, to whose activities (as part of "adjusting to life") a choice chapter is devoted. The book is full of striking observations, significant out of context as well as important to the closely knit argument of the book. Thus, we read:

"At the risk of oversimplifying * * * until about the middle of the nineteenth century, higher education endeavored to serve in intellectual terms the purposes of the Christian Church; in the twentieth century, it serves, by and large, those of the State."

"The key question about any college is how large a fraction of its scholars, scientists, and

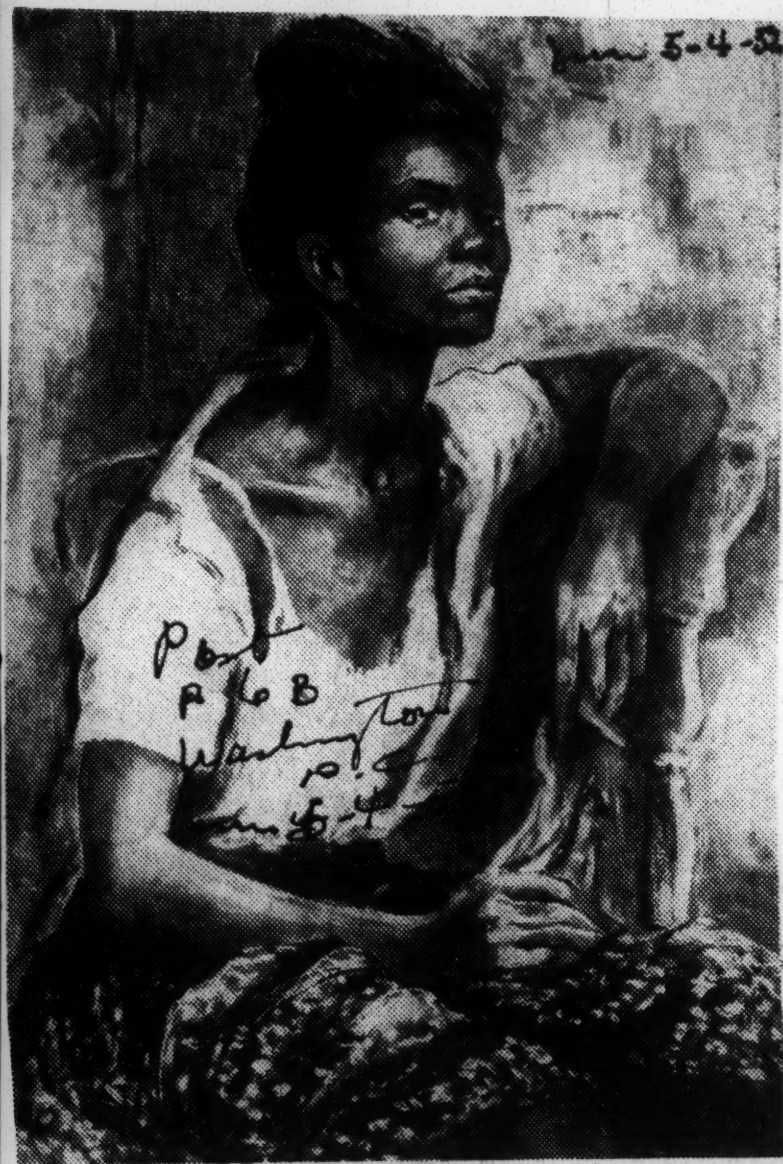
—though they come to us from cuneiform tablets across nearly four thousand years. Their story line is not always unfaltering, and one who reads merely for narrative interest may find his expectations disappointed at the dénouement. Yet Mr. Gaster is ingenious in reconstructing missing portions of fragmentary stories. His expert but simple comments illuminate many obscurities, two useful tables relate the stories to Stith Thompson's "Motif-Index of Folk Literature," and authentic illustrations appropriately supplement the text. Two Hittite tales are rendered here for the first time; the others, which include the Babylonian epic of Gilgamesh and the interesting myth of the Canaanitish Orion (Aqhat), are

retold from earlier translations of the author.

There is much of absorbing human interest here, whether it is about men or gods; much to recall Biblical or classical themes; and much to make one wonder at the inevitable sameness of gesture in man's eternal re-enactment of life's rituals.

A freelance essayist, Mr. Yohannan is Assistant Professor of English at the College of the City of New York.

Mrs. Horton was president of Wellesley from 1936 to 1949.



Courtesy of Maurice Wertheim Collection

Marion Greenwood's painting, "Mississippi Girl," which serves as the jacket design for Earl Conrad's book, "Rock Bottom," which Doubleday will publish Thursday. It is the true story of a Negro woman's experiences in America today, from a Mississippi plantation to New York's Harlem.

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

ROCK BOTTOM, by Earl Conrad. Doubleday and Company, 575 Madison Ave., New York. 320 pp. \$3.75.

Her name was Leea Whitfield, and she came from just outside Macon, Mississippi; and Leea was this kind of a girl—she didn't like "no white men" messing around, like they tried to mess around with her mother. "The master, he always roostered after my mother," Leea says.

Finally, the master lynched her father. She was twelve then, and one of the master's sons cut his eyes at her until he thought he had hypnotized her. But Leea was a girl like this: that evening when Dobbie Jr. got off his horse and walked up to her, Leea struck him with a towel. It scared to have broke his arm... I ran.

Ran In Circles

Leea ran a right far piece, but often in circles, up into South Carolina, and then back to Georgia and Alabama and then on somehow into Norfolk, Virginia, where she lived in the city dump for a while, and where also, eventually, she had her best job, and her best time, and her best man.

He wasn't a very good man (but Leea's standards weren't very high either). He couldn't hold a job, and he didn't want to hold a job so long as he could live on Leea and his mother.

After Leea's baby was born and Henry still refused to work, Leea left the baby with her mother-in-law, hopped a truck and lit out for Florida. That's the kind of girl she was—independent all the way. She didn't want Henry if Henry didn't want her, and Henry sure god didn't.

In Florida Leea had it tough working on "the Muck." People there didn't "even down know nothin' 'bout Christmas." They lived like beasts, in the same sort of savage struggle to keep alive and to satisfy their primal desires.

Leea lived like that too, for she was a girl with a lot of resiliency and a lot of spunk and a lot of primal energy. "I was," she

tells us, "like soup on the stove, boiling against my will."

She got into a knife fight with another girl over a man. She was witness to a savage lynching. Because she was virtually a slave, Leea had a rugged time getting off The Muck.

She Made It

But she made it. She went straight to New York State and finally to New York City, where she arrived with "eleven cents cash." That didn't worry her however, for Leea was the kind of a girl who, even in a depression, could get a job.

And she got one. In the course of time, she got several—but something always happened. Either the boss-lady tried to put something over on her, or a sweet-talking pimp tried to get her to go on the market, or unskilled abortionist nearly killed her.

Yet she managed, and managed to survive; and at the end of the book, black and ugly and alone, she's still managing.

It's pretty hard to believe in Leea Whitfield somehow. As a symbol, perhaps she's important—"You might think all I been through and seen I would want to go lay down and die. But no. Us fifteen million, we stay alive."

"You can see that. We ain't running to jump off no bridges or blow our brains out... Each man and woman... hang onto the breath of air if they can. That's why my people hang on... Hard time don't mean you want to die."

Too Late

But if Leea is a symbol, it is a symbol that has lost much of its congruity to present day American life. Mr. Conrad's book is about fifteen years too late. It has only the quality of timeliness, and the time for it is gone.

Leea's Lonely Odyssey

ROCK BOTTOM. By Earl Conrad. 320 pp. New York: Doubleday & Co. \$3.75.

MR. CONRAD'S heroine, a Negress held in peonage until the age of 12, escapes from a Mississippi plantation to begin an odyssey that lasts for thirty years. Her destination is the North. But the winds of fate blow Leea off her course; clouds of passion obscure her guiding star, and storms of ignorance foundle her on reefs.

Leea begs her way through several odd corners of the South, and then she is blown back into South Carolina. In Virginia she settles down long enough to marry and bear the child of a "dirty no-gooder." But the winds grow perverse again and drive her into Florida, in "the Muck" among people who

"don't even know nothin' 'bout Christmas." At last, in 1939, she reaches New York.

The story of these torturous travels is told by Leea herself in an idiom that strives and strives to succeed in becoming only a burlesque of the folk idiom. It is hollow at its most earnest moments. Add to this the fact that Leea is but the blurred shadow of a human being and you have summed up the faults of Mr. Conrad's novel.

These faults are enough to eviscerate it—to rob its multi-form horrors of impact, its message of meaning and its details of truth. The book fails, and somehow there is not enough in it to make one wish that it did not fail.

J. SAUNDERS REDDING.



Detail from a painting by Lawrence B. Smith. Reproduced by permission of the artist. Corner in the South.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN
Gertrude P.H.

ing's novel, "Stranger and Alone" which was published two years ago.

"Rock Bottom" by Earl Conrad is a curiously dated book which tells the story of a Negro woman's journey from Mississippi to Harlem. Mr. Conrad has used much the same technique as in his "Scottsboro Boy" which he wrote with Harwood, Patterson. Here again he tells in his subject's own words the often tragic and brutal account of a life of oppression. *dat. 7-5-52*

Leeha Whitfield left the plantation where her family sharecropped to escape the advances of the owner's son. Conrad traces her movements from that time until 1939 when she reaches Harlem and finds additional disillusionments facing her. The worst time of all for her were the years she spent in the Florida Everglades, "The Muck" where life was harsh and crude.

The author states that the story of Leeha Whitfield is a true one but he has clothed it in rather self-conscious language and has given it an air of pathos which somehow rings false. Leeha suffered one misfortune after another but her spirit was indomitable. Her story adds little to the factual history of the Negro and Mr. Conrad's writing little to the literature of the Negro.

"Rock Bottom" by Earl Conrad; Doubleday and Company; New York City; 1952; \$3.75.

"Strangers and Afraid"

"Strangers and Afraid," a first novel by Thomas Sterling, tells the story of two men, one Negro and one white, whose lives are oddly linked together. The Negro is a fugitive from a prison farm, the white a famous worker for minority groups. The book will be published in July by Simn and Schuster and will be their only fiction title for that month.

The title of the book is reminiscent of that of J. Saunders Red-

BOOK REVIEW

The Romance Of African Methodism, By George A. Singleton, Exposition Press, New York, 251 pp, Price \$4.

Reviewed By L. V. Overholser

"The Romance of African Methodism" was published at a very convenient moment—at the height of interest in the AME church, which recently concluded its 34th Quadrennial meeting in Chicago.

Every AME who holds this great organization dear to his heart should enjoy this volume by George A. Singleton, editor of the famed AME Review.

Actually this volume is not merely a historical account of the rise of the AME church, but it is a combined eulogy on the church and sermon on African Methodism.

Singleton, a man who in his general conversation, expresses his love for his church, displays his love through this volume. A non-AME easily might criticize the volume for possibly being too praiseworthy in relation to the church.

Nevertheless, the Romance also does point out a number of problems of the AME church. This book's purpose, however, is to tell the achievements of this great church body—its defects often are told in lurid terms by our press.

Any reader who wants a healthy dose of African Methodism and what it means to a person who lives it should read this volume. Members of other Methodist churches also should be interested in this volume.

Dr. Singleton uses colorful language about dynamic men whose hearts and souls and lives were wrapped up in the AME church. This book possibly is not as objective as some historians may like, but it is a factual and readable history. It is truly a "romance" of African Methodism.

Visa To Moscow By Michael Gordoy, Translated by Katherine Woods Knott; 419 pp, Price \$4.50

Reviewed By Carter Jewel

Any book giving information on the Soviet Union would be of interest to the peoples of all races and nationalities outside the Iron Curtain. The role which the Soviet Government is playing in the increasing tension between the East and West makes it necessary for the peoples of the free world to keep informed on the Russian mind, outlook and objectives.

Though Michael Gordoy, author of "Visa to Moscow, spent only

about two months in Russia, his knowledge of the Russian language enabled him to gather more information than the average foreign commentator or writer visiting the land of the Soviets.

Gordoy, leading foreign correspondent of the Paris newspaper "France-Soir" paints a dark picture of Red propaganda against the West, and particularly the United States. He writes objectively and factually, and documents his book with information which should bestir the Western World and especially America.

His book says the American colored person and the American white man, particularly the Southerner, must make important decisions, and very soon. The colored man must decide whether he will remain loyal to America regardless of the shortcomings of our democracy. The white American must decide whether he will accept the colored American as a first class citizen or risk the security of the American government.

Less Encouraging

Gordoy points out that the Reds are encouraging the East, especially the non-white world, to hate America. He found that the Soviets are also stirring up hatred of Americans among the Russians from the first graders to the aged. It is also well known that the Communists have tried to stir the wrath of American colored persons against their oppressors and enemies in America.

At the same time, Gordoy writes the Soviets glorify everything Russian. Party leaders are praised, he says, and the most praise and homage is reserved for Joe Stalin.

Honor Author For Writing Short Story

Hollywood, Calif. (ANP) — Because her name was merely listed among the 15 writers, composers, producers, and directors, who had awards and cash prizes in the famous annual contest held by the Christopher and no mention made of her nationality, the general public did not know in advance that Miss Mary Elizabeth Vroman is a colored girl.

Hence when a pretty, shapely, stylishly but modestly attired brownskin young lady, rose at the call of the radio announcer, from her seat on the rostrum of the Beverly Hills Crystal room it was a genuine surprise. A pleased murmur of excitement ran among the several hundred diners, which included some of the most celebrated stars and figures in the world. The few colored guests present thrilled with pride as prolonged applause rang out for her.

She had won a bronze trophy, and \$2,000 in cash for a story she had written which appeared in the June 1951 issue of the Ladies Home Journal. In her brief speech of acceptance, she expressed in soft, well-modulated tones how deeply grateful she was for the award, and the encouragement it gave her to continue to do her best.

Miss Vroman says she never wanted to be a teacher, but dreamed of being an actress, but now loves teaching and her pupils.

The teacher-author likes books people, Chopin, dancing, swimming and all kinds of pie.

Scholar Ends 20-Year Work Of Book Index

British Volumes Listed Of Latter 17th Century

Special to The New York Times and
The Courier-Journal.

New Haven, Conn., March 24.

—The last of three volumes indexing all the books printed between the years 1641-1700 in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America, as well as English books published elsewhere during that period, has just been completed after 20 years' research.

The scholar who did the job is Donald G. Wing, head of the accessions department of Yale University's Stirling Library. Yale announced yesterday the publication of the third and final volume by the Index Society of America, under the imprint of the Columbia University Press. *P. 12*

Much Material Winnowed

The monumental work is called the "Short-Title Catalogue." Since the first volume appeared in 1945, specialists have taken to referring to it simply as "S.T.C."

There are now about 80,000 titles listed; but Wing filled 52 black "shoe boxes" with more than 1,000,000 entries in the process of winnowing.

The years covered are regarded as one of the most confused periods in English literature. James M. Osborn, Yale English-research associate, likened Wing's achievement to the work of Dr. Samuel Johnson.

"The labors of Dr. Johnson on his 'Dictionary of The English Language' have always been held up as a triumph of devotion and sustained effort," Osborn said.

Wing Had No Assistance

"But Dr. Johnson had four amanuenses for a period of several years, whereas Wing worked with no help, aside from the checking of his proof sheets by 10 libraries against their own catalogues."

Osborn continued:

"Wing has made a literary map of one of the most tangled periods

in British history—the contentious times of Cromwell and the Commonwealth, the turbulent years of the Restoration, the quarrelsome period of the Popish Plot and the Whig Revolution."

Wing was a member of the Yale class of 1926 and has been on the library staff since 1928.

Newspaperman's Book Is 'Important Thesis On Negroes' Peculiar Status'

By STEVE DUNCAN

SOUTH OF FREEDOM by Carl T. Rowan (Alfred A. Knopf, \$3.50).

The tragic episodes of the Harry T. Moore's, Willie McGee's and other Negroes who fall fatal victims to that satanic beast called race hate are used by the enemies of America to ridicule us before the rest of the world. of Freedom,ss

So Carl T. Rowan's book, **South of Freedom**, is an important thesis on the Negro's peculiar status in these United States, not because it touches on any new or startlingly different fields, but simply because it re-emphasizes the fact that the question of human dignity is the pivotal point in the present ideological clash. The human rights issue is the "great debate" today.

Rowan, a staff writer for the **Minneapolis Tribune**, made a 6000-mile tour of his native southland to report first-hand on the progress of the Negroes below the Mason and Dixon line. The outcome of his tour was this very readable personal account, reflecting his ability as an interpretative journalist. Prior to publication of the book, Rowan's report appeared in a series in the **Tribune** and also as an article in **Look** magazine.

South of Freedom is not written to make the reader "hopping mad," but beneath Rowan's seemingly light treatment of his material runs a thought-provoking theme. "Men become addicted to freedom," he writes, "and the fuller their veins become of it the greater becomes their need for it."

Many of the episodes of the inforced social distance between Negroes and whites south of freedom depicted in the book may seem far-fetched to persons who have never visited the area. But to those who live there or have travelled there, Rowan's is an accurate account of the greatest irony of American democracy. The young journalist calls Birmingham, Ala., the capital of Jim Crowism in America, after visiting the "Pittsburg of the South." He adds: "It is, with apologies to Johannesburg and

Capetown, South Africa, the world's most race-conscious city." of the Moores and McGees will have nothing to fear.

He reports on the semi-class system within the Negro community in Atlanta, where he found the "haves" arguing that the progress of Negro business was the key to the race problem. "I can send my son to Harvard," one of them rationalized, while bemoaning the fact that the "have-nots" who couldn't afford it were unable to send their sons to the state universities in Georgia.

Rowan found much wrong with the New South, but he also saw a ray of hope in states where Negro students are admitted to the universities. In Federal Judge J. Waties Waring he found a Southerner who is an outspoken champion of human dignity. Talks with white Southern students reassured him.

Although the book is a report



CARL ROWAN

on the South, it magnifies also the evils of the North.

Looking to the future with hope, Rowan writes, "There are those among us who fear it, and many of us black folk live in it: almost all of us put faith in it—never, however, accepting the Hegelian dream that history cures all ills as it creates all of the."

If the people of this country take positive action on the finds of

Book Club Picks Story Which Raps Bias, Jim Crow

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota. — (Special) — One of the nation's top book clubs has selected for September distribution a book by



a Negro journalist who takes a hefty poke at racial segregation.

The book, "**South of Freedom**," is written by Carl T. Rowan, staff writer for the **Minneapolis Tribune**.

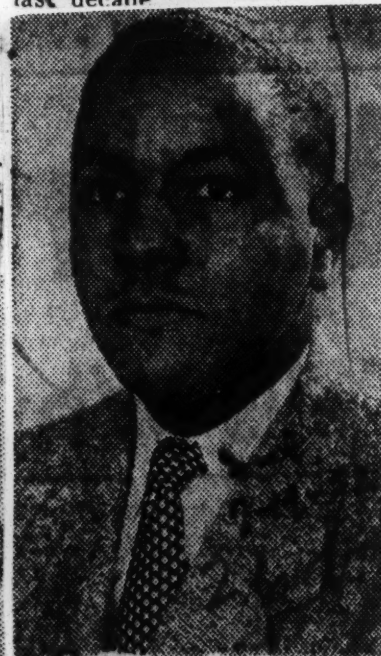
Rowan has been informed by the Book Find Club of New York City that "**South of Freedom**" will be made available to the club's 75,000 members in September.

"**South of Freedom**" is the story of Rowan's 6,000-mile journey through the South to write on what it means to be a Negro in today's South.

The book will be published August 4 by Alfred A. Knopf, and can now be ordered in all bookstores. Rowan's articles in the **Tribune**

created a sensation in the Upper Midwest. **Look** magazine recently ran a condensation of the articles, drawing hundreds of letters of praise—as well as considerable protest from Southern reactionaries.

"**South of Freedom**," which blasts Negro as well as white reactionaries, has been hailed by advance readers as "one of the biggest blasts at Jim Crow in the last decade."



Choice Book—

New York City's Book Find Club has selected "**South of Freedom**" as its September choice for readers. The book, a blast at Dixie Jim Crow, was written by Carl T. Rowan, staff writer for the **Minneapolis Morning Tribune**.

Books—Authors

"**South of Freedom**," a report by Carl T. Rowan, a Negro newspaper man for The **Minneapolis Morning Tribune**, will be published on Monday by Knopf. Mr. Rowan, who was born and reared in the South, describes his 6,000-mile return visit and the racial situation as he saw it, and "how far we have come and where we still must go" in the matter of race relations.

The Bitter Search for First-Class Citizenship

SOUTH OF FREEDOM. By Carl T. Rowan. 270 pp. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. \$3.50.

By HODDING CARTER

If someone were to write a book on the Northern scene and entitle it "North of Decency," the ordinary reader would conclude that such a study would hardly be objective, impartial or balanced. Carl Rowan has entitled his book "South of Freedom."

Because of his or his publisher's provocative choice of title I approached with some hostility this angry account of a native's brief return to his Southern homeland. I was not hostile when I had finished it, only depressed by a vivid reminder that changes which a white Southerner thinks are swift seem snail-like and indecisive to a Southerner who is not white and who suffers from color barriers.

Mr. Rowan is a sensitive and articulate young Negro who found a far better and perhaps more purposeful life in more nearly equalitarian Minnesota than he could expect back home in Tennessee. He is also a remarkable man who less than ten years ago was seemingly chained to the Tennessee town he hated. In the intervening years he became a wartime officer of the United States Navy, an Oberlin and University of Minnesota graduate after the war and the first Negro to be employed as a reporter on the staff of The Minneapolis Morning Tribune.

This book is a reporter's account of a tour of much of the South a year and a half ago for

Editor of The Greenville Miss., Delta Democrat-Times. Mr. Carter is author of "Southern Legacy," the purpose himself and his newspaper.

is going on. Mr. Rowan has expanded the series of Morning Tribune articles which won for him the Minneapolis Junior Chamber of Commerce "Service to Humanity" award, the selection as the city's outstanding young man of 1951, and other civic honors. I hope it also won him a couple of raises. His book

No Separate Fates

IN a world that rolls on the brink of disaster, it is easy to say that the Negro should subordinate his fate to that of his country and democracy. But there are no separate fates. Negroes are Americans; they are fused into the country's hillside by the sweat of generations, by ages of toil and bloodshed. The destiny of the American Negro is also the destiny of America and democracy. To protect its own permanent fate, freedom must cease to be a sometime, color-conscious thing.—"South of Freedom." is no more objective, impartial or balanced than its title, but it is a noteworthy contribution to the sad folklore of American interracial relations.

MR. ROWAN adds little factually to what is already known about segregation, political unreality and sex taboos that are the outgrowth of the Southern—and to a less extent—the national racial pattern. What he does offer is an eloquent and discerning personal protest, marred only by an understandable compulsion to put on one side of an all-or-nothing line those who are ready to go all the way with the Negro's demands and on the other those white Southerners whose approach is slower—without reference to their goodwill, their good citizenship or whatever courage is still required to fight for the Negro in the South.

I can't say that I blame him. But it is disheartening to find him questioning the guilt of a convicted rapist. It might be observed that it is no more proper to adjudge a Negro innocent of a crime in the South simply because he is a Negro than to judge him guilty for the same reason. Willie McGee, who in death became an international figure, was guilty of rape whatever Mr. Rowan says, but the author is right in pointing up the difference in the punishment meted out to Negro and white rapists in the South.

He is right in other matters, notably in underlining the South's disregard of human dignity as its worst racial offense. He is forthright in saying that all Negroes are not satisfied with better economic conditions, political rights or guarantees of equality before the law. As each is obtained, he says, the

militant Negro presses on to the next step, with integration as the final goal.

The Southerner who calls himself or is called progressive or liberal or forward-looking is likely to be brought up short by this personal document. How fast things move depends upon the definition of fast, and definitions vary. The average white Southerner, and most white observers from the outside, believe that racially things are moving very fast in the South, indeed. The average Southern Negro of middle age and older would likely agree. But Carl Rowan is no longer Southern, save that he grew to young manhood in Tennessee, nor middle-aged, nor white, nor average. He resents second-class citizenship and his protest is moving and sincere.

IN a chapter on civil rights in the recent symposium "Civil Liberties Under Attack," Robert K. Carr writes:

"Anyone who worked with the Civil Rights Committee and came in touch with responsible Negro leaders could not help but be impressed by their seriousness of purpose in this respect (the end of segregation); by their sense of indignation and frustration; by their feeling of quiet desperation. In making that sort of statement I do not in any sense intend to impugn the loyalty of these Negro leaders to the American way of life. Yet plain common sense dictates that no individual's sense of loyalty to a group or a way of life should be pressed too hard where the group fails to treat him with elementary decency or justice. The Negro wants full acceptance as a first-class American citizen. He wants freedom to enter the main stream of American life. Any-

one who denies that this is so is either a fool, or, what is worse, he is a knave."

I thought of this summation before I had read two chapters of "South of Freedom." I thought of it again when I had finished the bitter report of a loyal and perhaps unquietly desperate American, who will not find in his lifetime full acceptance as a first-class citizen everywhere in his country.

Negro's book is Book Find club choice

NEW YORK — The Book Find club's "Book of the month" selection is "South of Freedom," Alfred A. Knopf publication by Carl T. Rowan, Tennessee-born Negro who now works as a reporter and columnist on the Minneapolis (daily) Morning Tribune.

"South of Freedom" is Rowan's account of a revisit to the South of his boyhood, and how he found it. The book began as a series of articles in the Minneapolis Tribune which reputedly elicited more mail from readers than any other articles in the paper's history.

In his own explanation of why he came to write his book, Rowan calls it "a balance sheet of American race relations; it tells how far we have come and where we still must go."

After a trip which ranged from Washington, D. C. to Oklahoma and included contact with a wide range of southerners — Georgia's Talmadge to South Carolina's ostracized liberal, J. W. Waring, of Charleston, S. C., Rowan concludes that "The problem stays with us despite all the noble things men have said. Never was it more with us, nor in more sinister ways, than in these times of international gloom, when hatreds seem to govern our fate. After more than three centuries, America's race problem still is a creeping miasma that overshadows our economic lives, frustrates our social lives, and enshrouds our sexual lives in curiosity and untold fear."

The writer declared that he wrote his book "because I do not believe that man was born to hate and be hated; I cannot believe that the race problem is an inevitable concomitant of democratic life."

A review, which paid tribute to "South of Freedom's" "basic warmth and humor," and the author's perceptivity and objective mind, was written for the Book Find News by Hugh Weideman. The book club is offering "South of Freedom," originally priced at \$3.50, to members at the membership price of \$1.89, plus 24 cents postage and handling. Interested persons may address the club at 215 4th avenue, New York 3.

BOOKS AND THINGS

By LEWIS GANNETT

SOUTH OF FREEDOM, by Carl T. Rowan. Knopf. 270 pages. \$3.50.

CARL ROWAN is a Negro reporter for "The Minneapolis Tribune," a Cowles newspaper, and in 1951 "The Tribune" sent him back to his native South to see how much it had changed. He stayed five weeks, traveled 6,000 miles, visited thirteen states. The articles he wrote on his return produced more mail than any series in "Tribune" history; they earned Rowan a series of awards. Now they have been made into a book, "South of Freedom."

What Is 'the North'? or 'the South'?

In "The Minneapolis Tribune" these articles appeared under the rubric, How Far from Slavery?, which came closer

to expressing Rowan's point of view. He knows that there is no Mason and Dixon's Line for freedom. He knows that the South is changing fast, though spottily. He remembers that sometimes, when his editor sends him on an out-of-town assignment, he is uncertain whether he can get a night's lodging, even in Minnesota, and that at Charlie's Cafe Exceptionale in Minneapolis he is as unwelcome as he would be in New



Carl T. Rowan

York City's Stork Club. But in Minneapolis he can and does write about local discrimination, and readers become indignant and do something about it.

In the South . . . But what is the South? Is it Norman, Okla., a town which still had an ordinance forbidding Negro residence there when the university opened its doors to its first Negro student? Where the authorities segregated the first Negro student, while a committee of two hundred white students welcomed her at the station, and white students organized to stop Jim Crowing on the buses? Or is it Birmingham, Ala., where the only unsegregated spot Mr. Rowan could locate was the fare-box in the bus?

Mon Changing Dixie

In McMinnville, Tenn., which Mr. Rowan had left eight years before, he noticed some improvement. Negro and white children shared the sidewalks peacefully; he remembered the colored principal who had advised him after a fight, "If the whites want the sidewalks, get off. Walk in

the street." There was a new restaurant, Harvey's Bar B-Q Stand, patronized by both races, colored on one side, white on the other. The owner, a Negro, apologized; he said he ran a Jim Crow place because he had to live. Some Negroes talked of boycotting Harvey, that was a new note. But a Negro who wanted to read a book from the tax-supported library still had to ask his teacher to get it for him, and bring it out. A Negro could not sit down and read in McMinnville's public library. And McMinnville was reckoned a "good town."

In Columbia, Tenn., which had made the headlines with its Mink Slide interracial battle in 1946, old Henry Harlan, whose grandson had been lynched in 1927, assured Mr. Rowan that "There won't be no more trouble. They know now that Negroes have guts."

In Miami, Mr. Rowan found that, as a Negro, he could not even buy a newspaper in the railroad station. In Milledgeville, Ga., Negroes were not allowed at a drive-in movie theater, even segregated. But at Atlanta, capital of Herman Talmadge's state, Mr. Rowan heard how the Mayor had opened the sessions of the convention of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in the city auditorium, and Negro and white delegates openly danced together.

The White Hope: Students and Veterans

Riots had been predicted if the courts forced Southern universities to admit Negroes. Mr. Rowan reports that more than a thousand Negro students are studying in the colleges and universities of seventeen Southern states, and there has not even been a near-riot. Arkansas had opened its doors without waiting for the courts. The Southern editor of the student newspaper on a campus that had fought the issue through the courts, explained to Mr. Rowan, "It wasn't the students. The old heads—regents and legislators—were the real s. o. b's."

In students and veterans Mr. Rowan puts his hope—pretty good hopes, after all. It may be that the old men who orated at the conventions in the name of "the South" weren't as representative as they believed.

Mr. Rowan writes calmly, but behind his apparent cool objectivity the reader feels emotion seething. He is against "gradualists" who preach patience, and even more against Communists, who exploit injustice and some times by their extravagance stampede just men into supporting injustice. Obviously, he himself has a rare combination of courage and humor. In reporting the drama of his odyssey in his own South, and the iliads of his minor battles with Pullman-car conductors, he chuckles, and is yet aware that these minor skirmishes are like the struggles in the mountains of Korea, a significant part of the world war for democracy. And, like those bloodier battles, are being won, too slowly and at too great a cost.

Professor Has \$4,500 Grant To Write Book

WASHINGTON—Dr. John Hope Franklin, professor of history at Howard university, has been named a President's Fellow of Brown university. it was announced last week by Howard university.

The President's Fellowships are awards presented by Brown university to deserving scholars in the United States for the general purpose of furthering scholarship and creative art.

Dr. Franklin, winner of a \$4,500 grant, will do research on a book, "Southern Travelers in the North in the 19th Century."

Dr. Franklin is a native of Rentiesville, Okla. He received the bachelor's degree magna cum laude, from Fisk university and the master's and doctorate degrees from Harvard.

He taught at Fisk, North Carolina college, Harvard university and the Salzburg Seminar in American studies.

BOOK REVIEW

By J. SAUNDERS REDDING

Spartacus, by Howard Fast.
Published by the author, Box 171
Planetarium Station, New York 24,
N.Y. 363 pp. \$2.50. P. 10

SPARTACUS, whose famous oration has probably thrilled more schoolboys than even the exploits of Babe Ruth and Joe Dimaggio, was the Thracian slave who led a bloody and nearly successful servile rebellion against Rome in the century before Christ.



Mr. Redding

For nearly three years, with a couple of thousand slaves at his back, he met and defeated the best that Rome had to offer. This was possible (and a subtle point is made of the fact in this entralling novel about him) because of the decadent Romans there was neither glory nor honor in fighting slaves, "beasts," "instrumenta vocale."

Until one came along—a soldier, a general—who respected Spartacus, there was no chance of defeating him. Eventually, Licinus Crassus came along.

When the war was over at last, and a thousand men—slaves—hung from crosses on the Appian Way, Crassus remarked, "The man himself is like a dream. Now you will remake him back into a slave." But as for himself—"That was Spartacus. I salute him."

Howard Fast has brought Spartacus again to life. He has done more than that: he has recreated the tumultuous life of a teeming period in history. He has done it superbly.

Tells Part Of Story

It was a difficult thing to do, and it was not made less difficult by the method he chose. The story is presented on several levels. From Crassus, of course, we hear snatches of it.

Lentulus Batiatus, who bought Spartacus at the marble mines in Nubia and trained him as a gladiator, tells part of it. Some of it is told by other slaves, and some of it we feel, through Spartacus himself.

Though coming in this piecemeal fashion, so consummate is the art of Howard Fast that the reader is left with the satisfied feeling of having been a participant in all that happened, and of having had the illusion of life sustained.

There are many things in and about Spartacus that deserve comment. Howard Fast, for instance, draws ideological parallels that some people will not like.

He points lessons. "... So long as men labored, and other men took and used the fruit of those who labored, the name of Spartacus would be remembered, whispered sometimes and shouted loud and clear at other times." *Ballou*

He has Varinia, the faithful widow, say, "He wanted a world where there were no slaves and no masters, only people living together in peace and brotherhood ... and there would be no more war and no more misery and no more suffering." *3-15-52*

Again, in Spartacus the esthetic values are elevated above all others—and this is not generally true of Fast's books.

Finally, the author is also the publisher, and this is because (to our shame be it said), in our hysteria over communism, we are closing tight many channels of expression and distribution to those thought to be "politically tainted," and by so doing, weakening the freedom of all of us.

It is probable that when we are again willing to listen to ideas and opinions at variance with our own, we will rate Spartacus as an important American novel, second only to Fast's Citizen Tom Paine.

U. S. Describes Gains By Race In 10 Years

See Gap Closing Between 2 Races

WASHINGTON — Despite significant gains made by Negroes since 1940, the colored American still lags way behind his white fellow citizen.

This was the conclusion reached by the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics in a report released last week by the Senate Subcommittee on Labor and labor management relations. Strides were noted in the Negro's economic and social status but the lag was so great that Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, (D., Minn.), subcommittee chairman commented:

"The report provides clear evidence that legislation by the Congress is in order to provide equal opportunity in employment, adequate housing, fuller education, and improved health facilities for all Americans."

The report was prepared at the request of the subcommittee under the direction of Harold Goldstein, assistant chief of the division of manpower and employment statistics.

Following are highlights of the report.

Income — The Negro wage and salary worker earned an average of about \$1,300 or 52 percent of the average for white workers in 1950. The 1939 average was about \$400, or less than 40 percent of the white average.

largely because of the increased demand for Negro school teachers.

School enrollment — The percentage of Negroes enrolled increased appreciably between 1940 and 1950 and was proportionately much greater than among whites in the 18-to-24 age group. About 15 per cent of all Negroes 18 to 24 were enrolled in schools in 1950, as against 9 per cent in 1940.

Educational attainment — The 1950, Negroes aged 25 and over covered only the 1945-50 period. The figures on family income had completed an average of seven years in school, nearly three years less than the average for whites. This represented an increase since 1940 of a year or more for both groups. The high-income was \$1,860 in 1950, or 54 per cent of the average income of 3,445 among white families. In 1945, the Negro families' average was \$1,538, or nearly 57 per cent of the \$2,718 for white families.

Unemployment — The average rate since 1947 has been 50 per cent above that for whites, but has dropped more sharply among Negroes.

Occupational changes — Negroes have made appreciable gains up the occupational ladder since 1940, but in comparison with white workers are still predominantly employed in lower-paying and less-skilled occupations. The proportion of employed Negro men engaged in professional occupations remained at about 2 per cent, while the proportion of Negro women in such positions rose to more than 6 per cent by 1943.

Population shifts — Marked migration of Negroes from the South to Northern, Central and Western states between 1940 and 1950 was noted. More than 4,500,000 or 29.5 per cent of the country's 15,500,000 Negroes, were living in twenty-seven cities in 1950.

Death rates — They are still higher among Negroes than among whites, but the difference has consistently narrowed. In 1935, the death rate among Negroes was 17.3 a 1,000 and among whites, 11.1. By 1949, the death rate for Negroes was 12.6 and 8.4 for whites.

Life expectancy — The difference between whites and Negroes has narrowed while the expectancy of both has risen, largely because of the control of infectious disease. About thirty years ago the life expectancy of a Negro boy at birth was 47 years, or nine years less than that of a white boy. By 1949, the expectancy of the Negro boy had increased to nearly 59 years and that of the white boy to 66.

Negroes Trail On Jobs, Wages

THE NATION'S 15.5 million Negroes are getting short-changed "in almost every significant and social characteristic that we can measure," a staff report by the Senate Labor-Management Relations Subcommittee just released by Sen. Humphrey (D. Minn.) declares.

Compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics and incorporating findings of the last census, the study shows that although the well-being of both whites and Negroes improved between 1940 and 1950, "the highest proportion of Negro workers continues to be found in the lower-paying and less-skilled occupations, such as service workers and laborers."

Differences between the two groups have narrowed somewhat, the report shows, but Negro citizens lag far behind whites in many respects. In spite of the fact that more members of Negro families, on the average, must work for their living, the average income per Negro family unit was only \$1869 in 1950.

That was just 54% of the \$3445 average among white families. In 1945 the Negro families' average was \$1538, or 57% of the \$2718 average for white families. Thus, despite higher average earnings, Negro families actually fell 3% more behind in the five-year period.

The report gave the following findings in regard to other social and economic measurements:

Life expectancy—Negroes continue to die at a higher rate and their average life expectancy at birth is more than seven years less than that of whites, although, differences have narrowed somewhat. In 1949 the death rate for Negroes was 12.6 per thousand, compared with 8.4 among whites. The life expectancy at birth of Negro girls, in 1949 was more than eight and one-half years less than that of white girls.

Education—In 1950, Negroes aged 25 and over had completed an average of seven years of school, almost three years less than the average for whites. The percentage of Negroes aged 5 to 24 enrolled in school was 59.3%

as compared with 61.1% of whites, but at ages 14 to 17 only 75.6% of Negroes were enrolled as compared with 85.7% for whites.

Unemployment—For both Negro men and women the average rate of unemployment, from 1947 to 1951, has been more than 50% above that for whites. This held true in spite of a consistently higher proportion of Negroes than whites working.

Distribution—The highest proportions of Negro workers continue to be found in the lower-paying and less-skilled occupations, such as service workers and laborers. Comparatively low proportions of Negroes are found in the professional, technical, managerial, clerical, sales and craftsmen occupations. More than 55% of Negro women are employed in domestic and personal service—a 2½% increase since 1944.

Individual income—In 1950 the Negro wage and salary worker earned an average of about \$1,300, or 52% of the average for white workers. Since 1939, however, the average for Negro workers has increased relatively more than for whites. The average income for Negro wage and salary workers was about \$400 in 1939—less than 40% of the average for white workers.

BOOK REVIEW

States' Laws on Race and Color by Pauli Murray (Compiler). Women's Division of Christian Service of the Methodist Church, 42 Plum Street, Cincinnati, Ohio. 746 pp. \$4.00.

By J. S. REDDING
Please do not let the title—**States' Laws on Race and Color**—mislead you into thinking, "Oh, just another legal tome." Pauli Murray's book is valuable to more than lawyers and legislators.

Though as a lawyer herself, Miss Murray was originally bent only on determining "the extent to which racial practices are controlled by law throughout the country," she has produced a book that fills a great need for the layman.

It is at once a convenience to lawyers and a guide to those who are not. Many a colored traveler in America has asked himself time and again, "How far and in what direction can I legally go in this state?"

One might as well face the fact that the question has to be asked. One might as well face also the



fact that not knowing the answer has landed many a colored person into more trouble than he could get out of short of a fine or a jail sentence. Now everyone can know the answer.

Georgia's Code
Though this is a work of compilation purely, many of the items quoted, and even some of those condensed, make fascinating reading—probably because, though one knows these things, he has never really seen them in print organized in a pattern of repression so gigantic as to be almost incredible.

The pattern of repression is also, and almost equally, a pattern of degradation. The Code of Georgia, for instance, stipulates that "any charge or intimation against a white female of having sexual intercourse with a person of color is slanderous without proof of special damage."

ther or mother from negro ancestors, without reference to or limit of time or number of generations." You can say this for black blood: it sure is strong.

Most of the laws Miss Murray quotes have to do with education. Only six states expressly prohibit segregation in public school, and only eight provide that no distinction or classification shall be made of public school children on the basis of race.

If my figuring is as good as it was when I was in grammar school, that means that thirty-four states have nothing in their laws to prevent the kind of discrimination that exists in Georgia.

As Miss Murray points out, segregation is synonymous with discrimination—at least morally. Legalistically it is not, and that is why the "separate but equal" clauses are so vicious.

Miss Murray was not content only with a servicable job of compilation and reference. She includes in her appendix excerpts from international documents such as the Charter of UNESCO and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

A study of these excerpts indicates how far we Americans are from living up to the fine professions we make to the world.

Miss Murray, a native of Baltimore and a graduate of the Law school of Howard University and the University of California School of Jurisprudence, gave two years to this book. It was time well spent.

While the Mambo Chants

STRANGE ALTARS. By Marcus Bach. 254 pp. Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Company. \$3.

By SELDEN RODMAN

BILLED as "the inside story of Voodoo as practiced on the island of Haiti" (and its author as "America's foremost religious researcher") "Strange Altars" turns out to be a lot less sensational and considerably more informative than it looks. Marcus Bach's mind was so open when he came to Haiti that he appears not to have read any of the reliable books dealing with his subject.

"Why," he asks, "had writers never mentioned the fact that Voodoo was gentleness and faith and family songs? Or why weren't we seeing sex-mad orgies?" Had Mr. Bach's research included only such standard works in English as Harold Courlander's "Haiti Singing" and James Leyburn's "The Haitian People" he would not have been shocked to discover that for most Haitians religion is something to be experienced with all the senses, nor would he so blithely have ignored the evidence of his own in describing this most poverty-stricken and exploited of peoples as "knowing no poverty, greed or pain; having no time for such petty things as local or international treachery."

The extent to which *vodun*, the original African propitiation of good and evil spirits, has degenerated morally and esthetically, the degree to which it is employed by unscrupulous priests to keep the peasant in superstitious disregard of political, agricultural and sanitary enlightenment, does not seem to concern the author at all. "My spirit was already following the *ogan's* inhuman cry and the drums' ghoulis incantation. I was being led out into the night and lured to far-off Dahomey while the *mambo* haunted me with her high-pitched lingering chant." *Time - Book Review*

MR. BACH was fortunate to have as his guide and explicator Stanley Reser, an ex-marine who has lived in Haiti for twen-

ty-five years and has probably become more closely identified with *vodun*—and perhaps with the Haitian peasant—than any white man in history. Moreover Doc Reser, as he is affectionately known from Jeremie to Le Cap, somehow managed to enter wholeheartedly into the native cult without sacrificing historical perspective. A humanitarian in the broadest sense, he never lost sight of the validity of other beliefs.

Now inextricably mixed with Catholicism, Haitian *vodun* is correctly seen by Doc Reser and his pupils as standing somewhere between religion as an



From jacket design by W. R. Lohse for "Strange Altars."

obedience to forms and religion as an individual psychological experience. "In your so-called civilized communities," Doc Reser reminded them, "church doctrines are purely academic. A person is taught to believe without evidence. In Voodoo one expects and finds proof of the things he is taught. If faith is believing in things unseen, then Voodoo goes beyond faith."

These demonstrations—the state of possession, the trial by fire, the identification with nature—may seem to most of us happily reduced to symbols in a Christianity long institutionalized. But has the impulse toward joy, and even the necessary mechanism of escape from the temporal, gone with the loss of these primitive experiences? "Strange Altars" poses this dis-

turbing question anew in the figure of one man who has successfully "escaped."

BOOK REVIEWS by GERTRUDE MARTIN

Novels about Negro-white relationships have been written with a variety of characters. "Strangers and Afraid," a new book by Thomas Sterling, approaches the subject from a new angle. It is concerned with two men, Lyle Bishop, head of the League for the Right to Freedom and champion of minorities, and Maccabee David, a young Negro of 19 years who flees from a prison farm in the South to New York. There his path crosses that of Bishop. The book is made up of flesh-backs which trace the lives of the two men and of Bishop's wife. They meet at a moment of crisis in the life of each.

Mr. Sterling has the ability to tear aside the conventional facade of his characters and expose their inner thoughts and aspirations. He makes the reader understand the doubts and anxieties of man like Bishop who has devoted his life to helping others but now has grave doubts about his motivations and those of his friends. He decides that people like himself in so-called "do-good" organizations usually fail because they do not really seek success. The chapter in which he examines his friends at a party in his home is extremely well-done and some of them are familiar types.

Maccabee David, like Lyle, has grown up under an almost fanatical religious influence and, though their lives differ in most respects, both have an honest and almost cynical approach to those around them. For some reason, Maccabee's recital of his life story is a great deal more stilted than the rest of the book. In part this is

because he is a smug person, but even so, his language is more stuffy and his story less real than it might have been.

On the whole, "Strangers and Afraid" is less successful in its total characterizations than it is in its more general analysis of these same characters. None of these people is happy even in the most limited sense but Mamie, Lyle's wife, is perhaps the most tragic of all because she alone has no idea of how to cope with her difficulties.

"Strangers and Afraid" is a disturbing book and a thought-provoking one. Few young writers know as much about the inner workings of their characters as Mr. Sterling does. He has looked well below the surface in Negro-white relationships too and the result is an unusual book and one that his readers will not easily forget.

"Strangers and Afraid" by Thomas Sterling; Simon and Schuster; 630 Fifth Avenue; New York City; 1952; \$3.50.

On Japanese Scholarship

Hugh and Mable Sythe have written a very informative article, "Shackled Scholarship in Japan," for the Summer issue of the American Scholar. Mr. Smythe and Mrs. Smythe, an economist, a sociologist, have been lecturers at Yamaguchi National University and Shiga National University for the past year.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune

Hailed In Digest Article

PLEASANTVILLE, N. Y.—Mary McLeod Bethune, "through faith in God and in herself," rose from humble beginnings as a cotton picker to her present eminence as founder and head of Bethune-Cookman College at Daytona Beach, Florida. The story of Mrs. Bethune's life is told by Dorothy Walworth in the February Reader's Digest.

Mary Bethune's own education and later her founding and development of the college were accomplished with the utmost difficulty. She had no money, and on every hand she met opposition and indifference on the part of whites and blacks alike. In the early days of the college she got ink by squeezing the juice from wild elderberries, made pencils of charred wood, combed dump heaps for

anything that could be turned into furniture.

She persisted despite such handicaps, however, and gradually the college grew. Financial assistance was eventually received from two men, James N. Gamble of Procter and Gamble, and Thomas H. White of the White Sewing Machine Co. By the late '20s Mrs. Bethune was becoming widely known as an educator; in one year she spoke at some 500 meetings in 40 states. President Hoover, in 1930, invited her to his White House Conference on Child Health. Later, during Roosevelt's administration, she was head of the Negro division of the National Youth Administration. In 1935 she was awarded the Spingarn Medal, given yearly "for the highest and noblest achievement by an American Negro."

Mrs. Bethune strongly influenced President Roosevelt to create the Federal Committee on Fair Employment Practice, outlawing discrimination in defense industry. In 1945 Roosevelt asked Mrs. Bethune to be a delegate to the San Francisco Conference of the UN. Today, at the age of 77 Mrs. Bethune is president emerita of her college, which now has 1025 students and 27 buildings.

MRS. ELLEN TERRY -(Author of Children's Books)



NOTED NEW YORK AUTHOR of Children's books, Mrs. Ellen Terry (center) is shown here with Dr. Helen G. Edmonds, (right) North Carolina college historian and author, and Mrs. Mollie H. Lee in Durham, N. C., last week. Mrs. Lee is librarian at the Richard B. Harrison library in

Raleigh. Mrs. Terry, who was guest at a breakfast given by Dr. Edmonds, was the guest speaker during the National Book Week in several southern cities. Millions of her books are circulated in this country and abroad through CARE.

A Week-end With Ellen Terry

BY WILEY E. DANIELS, SR.

Birmingham-born Ellen Terry of New York came back home last week and was acclaimed by many of those who know her here in earlier days.

Miss Terry, nationally famous writer of Children's Books, was sponsored by the Ladies Limited Club as part of its efforts toward creating more interest in reading among Birminghamians of all ages.

A series of banquets, teas, luncheons and other social affairs filled Miss Terry's hours and through all of it the courageous young writer carried a friendly, happy and attractive air.

The whirl began on Friday when she, under the guidance of the Ladies Limited Club, visited the schools, thus combining the activities designed by her sponsors

with those initiated by the schools in observance of American Education Week.

LOCAL SCHOOLS 11-18-52 WELCOME HER

At Hooper City High, Principal (Mrs.) Nona W. Powell and a selected group of high school students welcomed her. She stopped off at Tuggle School where memories of the late great Carrie Tuggle part of her Birmingham years, were present. There she was greeted by Principal G. F. Day, the faculty, and students. Over at Parker High, Miss Terry was the assembly's speaker for the Friday Education Week program. There she enjoyed the unstinted enthusiasm of Principal P. C. Johnson, the faculty members and student body. A round of "picture-taking" activity at Parker was followed by an unscheduled visit to Immaculata High School in Titusville.

Prof. R. A. Jones, of Parker High, presented Miss Terry to various classes at the Catholic institution. At Immaculata, Miss Terry, who had a commission from Monsignor Drew of New York to carry out, was at her best. There among the symbols of her faith, one got glimpses of the inner spiritual drive which has made her books for children the living lessons they are.

GIVEN F. I. H. S.'s TRADITIONAL COURTESY

Miss Terry and the Ladies Limited group were uncheon guests of Principal E. J. Oliver and his assistant, Mrs. Mabel Neely, at the Fairfield Industrial High School. This affair was in the Fairfield tradition. While at the table, Miss Terry gave some of the experiences which have led her to write certain books. One was intrigued with the "why" of her books, "Hezekiah Horton."

Miss Terry spoke at the F. I. H. S. assembly hour and urged the students to "Cast down your buckets where you are."

MOVES ON TO WENONAH

Miss Terry was effusively greeted by Principal Robert Biddings and his group at Wenonah Elementary School. A short time later, the talented, attractive "native daughter"

visited the Wenonah High School with Principal Leon Kennedy and members of the senior class heartedly welcomed her. There she spoke again at an assembly.

Afterwards, Mr. Kennedy and the faculty were hosts to Miss Terry and the sponsoring group at a lovely, memorable tea.

HUGE THROGS TURNED OUT TO GREET HER

FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday night, too, was full. Miss Terry was guest speaker at a public meeting at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, pastored by the Rev. Luke Beard, under the aegis of the Ladies Limited Club where a huge crowd was in attendance. Banquets and social affairs followed. Later in the evening, following the elaborate feast provided by members of the sponsoring club, Miss Terry was guest of Alpha Phi Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity at its "Wives, Sweethearts Party."

CONDUCTS WORKSHOP WITH SCHOOL LIBRARIANS

Saturday, Miss Terry conducted a workshop with the librarians from schools and the community; held story hour for over 300 eager, attentive youngsters at the Washington Branch Library, and was in attendance when Mrs. Myra J. Bryant cut the ribbons formally opening the Ladies Limited Club's "Book Bazaar" which will continue at the St. Paul Methodist Church, pastored by Dr. H. B. Gibson, through Thursday of this week.

SHARES SPOTLIGHT WITH MISS VROMAN

Saturday night, Miss Terry shared the spotlight with Miss Elizabeth Vroman, noted author ("See

How They Run," and "Have Not Charity") at another banquet held at the 18th Street YMCA.

Here, efforts were made to unite the efforts of local writers so as to give greater impetus to directing and grooving creative tendencies on the part of local individuals.

Emory O. Jackson, managing editor of "Birmingham World," inspired the effort, the Ladies Limited Club sponsored it, and Prof. B. M. Montgomery served as toast master.

Both, Miss Terry and Miss Vroman, dealt upon their experiences with writers and publishers, giving inside maps to the path to be followed toward successful authorship.

LADIES LIMITED CLUB DID BIRMINGHAM A SERVICE

The weekend with Ellen Terry, author of "Hezekiah Horton," "My Dog Rinty," "The Runaway Elephant," and other stories for children, was a full weekend but never quite as full as the fullness of the author's life which seems to make itself felt in her whole being.

The Ladies Limited Club, of which Mrs. Katherine Jackson Powell is president, has done Birmingham a service and gladdened the hearts of a stalwart native daughter where efforts have been also added to the city's greatness.

Ellen Tarry To Arrive Thursday For Book Fete

Miss Ellen Tarry, noted children's book author, is scheduled to arrive in Birmingham Thursday night for an event-studded homecoming celebration of the opening of National Book Week.

She will be headline speaker at a literary mass meeting scheduled for eight Friday night at the 6th Street Baptist Church pastored by the Reverend Luke Beard.

The internationally known writer is slated to tour schools Friday High and those schools in the Wenonah educational center. She will lunch at Fairfield and make brief talks at the latter school, and others except the three Wenonah schools where the schedule will permit only an inspection of the schools.

Thursday night Miss Tarry will be the supper guest of Mrs. Katherine Jackson, president of Ladies Limited Club, which is sponsoring the homecoming and observance in cooperation with a Citizens Committee headed by Mrs. Lucinda Brown Robey.

A Book Bazaar is scheduled for November 14-22 at the St. Paul Methodist Church pastored by Dr. H. B. Gibson, Sr. Miss Tarry will be on hand to greet visitors to the exhibit and autograph copies of her books for buyers.

The Friday night program will consist of the prelude by John Banks; the invocation by the Rev. W. Prince Vaughn, pastor of Tabernacle Baptist Church; music by the Parker High School choir under directions of William Henry; the Daniel Payne College choir is under the conductorship of Mrs. Jessie H. Robinson; the Miles College choir under the baton of Mrs. LaVerne Eaton Smith; the occasion by Miss Annie J. Hogan.

On for greetings are Miss Emma O. Wyatt, president of the City Federation of Clubs; Mrs. Clara Brown, non-federated clubs; Mrs. Myrtle Wright Blissett, sororities and fraternities; Mrs. Lucinda Brown Robey, the citizens and Mrs. Mamie LaBon Foster, the local writers.

The featured guest speaker will be introduced by Mrs. Powell, president of Ladies Limited Club. Mrs. Cleotha J. Hayden will recite the announcements and voice appreciations.

Among events interwoven into the coupling celebration of American Education Week and National

Book Week are a workshop at nine Saturday morning at Graymont

School, Children's Hour at 12:30 that afternoon at the Washington Branch Library; the creative writers banquet Saturday night at the 18th Street Branch YMCA; a radio interview at 4:30 Saturday afternoon and a closed tea given by the Citizens Committee at the Eighth Avenue Branch YWCA.

Various groups will be in charge at the book exhibit beginning with the Junior Ladies Limited Monday, November 17 with the supervisors listed Mrs. Rosa Graham, Mrs. Minnie L. Thomas and Mrs. Lillian Thomas. Tuesday the Y-Teen will be on duty assisted by Miss Helen George of Parker High School and Mrs. Evelyn T. Melson of Lincoln School.

Girl Scouts under the supervision of Mrs. Mildred Bell Johnson are slated to be in charge on Wednesday; Thursday the junior clubs will work under the supervision of Mrs. Estelle LaBon; Friday the Business and Professional Clubs assisted by Mrs. Inez Perryman and Enon Ridge NAACP Council under the supervision of Miss Jennie V. Woods and Miss Marie Bailey.

Among publishers and writers who have sent books to be placed in exhibit and on sale are: Bookman Association Merit Publishers, the McGraw and Hill, Prince Hall American, William Morrow, American Library, Bakers Play, American Press, Em McGreel, Aladdin Books, Harper Brothers, American Book Austin Phelps, Books from Penquin, New American Library and Viking Press.

The featured attractions are expected to draw book-interested and culture-loving people from most of the colleges of the state and other points in Alabama.

While in the South, Miss Tarry is expected to fill an engagement at Atlanta University and also at Alabama State College. She was expected to board the train for Birmingham after attending a swanky festival in New York City.

A number of private courtesies are being planned in Birmingham by friends of Miss Tarry. She will get a bid to attend the Omega Wives and Sweetheart Party at Cabin Club Friday night. Here she will meet in a lively way a number of the talented spirits of the city.

Writer Tells Of Interview In New York With Ellen Tarry

By Myra J. Bryant

During the period 1940-46 there was a definite upswing in the production and publication of the work of Negro authors.

At the same time that an unprecedented amount of social commentary poured from the presses, the field of children literature experienced a similar growth and children's publication flourished accordingly.

During the thirties, many white writers of juvenile books had depicted Negro characters in the "tradition of cotton patches and cabins, minstrel humor, exaggerated laziness, fantastic dress and ridiculing names."

Perhaps the two books which were most responsible for the determination of Negro writers to attack the stereotype built up by this "plantation tradition," were "Li'l Hannibal" and "Jack Sambo."

Children's books written by Negro writers in the 1940-46 period used realistic stories and illustrations to show that every day life of the average Negro family was just like the every day life of any other normal American family. These books were designed to be read by white as well as Negro children. They were written for the general children's market and their only objective was entertainment.

While in New York recently we interviewed one of the successful writers of children's books of this period in the person of Ellen Tarry—our own Ellen Tarry of Birmingham.

Miss Tarry now lives in Harlem, which she calls her adopted home and she is one of those southerners who has not tried to forget nor to disown her southern origin.

We found her modest and charming and eager to talk about her visit home, in fact eager to talk about anything and everything except the object of our interview—Ellen Tarry.

She is anxious to compare conditions now with what they were when she left Birmingham for the "big city." She is concerned about new opportunities opening up in the literary field for Negroes. She is wondering if these opportunities are being used fully and advantageously.

Her contacts with publishers and editors have impressed upon her the importance of the Negro market with respect to books written by Negroes.

She realizes, as we do, that it is difficult for a Negro author to get a publisher to promote his book be-

cause Negroes in general are just not "book buyers."

Speaking of the fabulous amounts of money that certain manufacturing concerns spend sending "missionaries" out among our people to better persuade them to buy their respective brands and products, Miss Tarry said: "If only a could get book people-publishers and book wholesalers to use the same kind of tactics with respect to the Negro market, I am sure we would, in our lifetime, see terrific elevation of general intelligence. And, to me, intelligence is necessary equipment in our struggle for first rate citizenship. Just pondering the established fact that all of the knowledge in the world sooner or later finds its way between the book cover, gives me added inspiration and strengthens my desire to share what ever meager knowledge of books I may have with much as possible."

Ellen Tarry's coming should inspire the fledgling writers as well as the established ones, in our city.

She has had her share of failures as well as successes. Her children's books are, she says, the result of a course in creative writing which she pursued when she received a scholarship from the Bureau of Educational Experiments in New York City. This scholarship enabled her to spend two years in the Writer's Laboratory at the Cooperative School for Student Teachers.

After freelancing for years, and writing for Catholic and Negro publications, in the early forties, her article "Native Daughter" attracted national attention when it appeared in the Commonweal.

Her first book, "Jannie Belle," a founding story was published in 1940 by Garden City. "My Dog Rinty," with Marie Hall Ets. collaborating, has had a second printing and is the story of a little boy in Harlem and his devotion to his dog.

"Hezekiah Horton," another of Miss Tarry's books, is the story of a "car minded" little boy and a fast red automobile owned by a man called "Mr. Ed." This story follows the 1940-46 pattern of realistic portrayal of every day life and aspiration of the average small boy.

"The Run-Away Elephant" is the amusing story of Modoc, the elephant who ran away from the circus just outside of New York City. But Modoc didn't enjoy his freedom long because "Hezekiah" and "Mr. Ed," the red automobile and a mysterious Mr. Smith, captured him with gallons of peanut butter.

All of these last named books are published by Viking Press.

Currently, Miss Tarry is community public relations director for the St. Charles School and Community Center Fund, a project to raise a million dollars for Harlem.

The St. Charles School and Community Center Fund will serve all faiths and all races. Mayor Vincent Impellitteri, of the City of New York, considered the campaign of such importance that he issued a proclamation on April 15, 1952, calling upon all the residents of New York City to support the campaign.

Protestants, Jews and Catholics, Negro and white, have formed a Citizens' Committee to work for this new School and Community Center which seeks to provide sorely needed facilities for Harlem as a bulwark against the evils of vice and crime—a project which will uphold American ideals in the continuing battle against the inroads of Communism.

Birmingham awaits impatiently the arrival of her "native daughter," Ellen Tarry, who comes to open the annual Book Week celebration of the Ladies Limited Club, Mrs. Katharine J. Powell, president.

Many of the nations' publishers are cooperating with them. Much depends on public reaction to this exhibit. If the reaction is favorable, publishers, in the future will strive to cultivate the Negro market and our Negro authors will have an outlet for their literary efforts, and as Ellen Tarry says, "should pro-certain benefits for our community that might well flow over into a much broader stream."

If the exhibit is a success, Ellen Tarry and other Negro authors will not be approached by people saying, "I've heard about your books—but where can I buy one?"

Book publishers are interested in selling books. You and I are the Negro market. We can keep the doors of opportunity open for Negro poets, novelists and journalists. That is Ellen Tarry's concern and it should be ours.

Miss Tarry is a native of Birmingham. Her parents Mr. "Bob" Tarry and "Miss Eula" were old line citizens, her father for many years an outstanding barber until his passing.

She, like many other descendants of these old families who have gone North, East and West, seeking opportunities denied them here, is making contributions in her adopted home which Birmingham might have used.

Ellen Tarry will find some changes but not enough. She and many like her must continue to open doors and keep them open for those refugees and displaced persons of the Negro race who escape from behind their curtain of Jim Crow.

The southern Negro is catching up with progress faster than the

South is catching up with him. Miss Tarry will find that it will still be necessary for a long time to come for the expatriate "native sons and daughters" of the South to open doors and hold them open for those seeking a place in the mainstream of American life. In the meantime, to paraphrase Booker T. Washington, "we will study and get ready," and buy more books.

Zulu Tomboy

THIRTY-ONE BROTHERS AND SISTERS. By Reba Paëff Mirsky. Illustrated by W. T. Mars. 190 pp. Chicago: Wilcox and Follett. \$2.95.

THIS remarkably convincing story of the South African veld is by a woman who has never been to Africa. Mrs. Mirsky's interest in primitive societies led her to make friends with Zulu students and teachers whom she met in her travels and from whom she gathered material for this book. Upon completion, the story was checked for accuracy by a South African native.

The book tells the adventures of 10-year-old Nnumura, daughter of a Zulu chief, and her thirty brothers and sisters. A true tomboy in a culture which forbids women to take part in men's activities, Nnumura proves that a girl, too, can be brave and daring. Her courage is rewarded when she is permitted to go on an elephant hunt with the men and boys. This is a fascinating account of daily life on the veld, filled with details of tribal customs and descriptions of the country. Children who read about the lovable Nnumura will learn that boys and girls are much alike the world over. Winner of the Charles W. Follett Award. E. H.

About Books

BLOOD AND THUNDER LYNCH NOVEL: THUNDER IN PARADISE
BY WILBERT E. HEMMING, 21 pp

Price 25c

A novel which has produced controversy is "Thunder in Paradise," by W. E. Hemming, a Jamaican. It is the story of a lynching which supposedly took place in Kentucky.

It was told to Hemming by a fellow worker for a sugar corporation in America. It involved the worker and his brother's family while they were working for a Kentuckian who had definite ideas about Negroes. The story reads like a blood and thunder tragedy in which all the characters die. In fact all the characters, with the exception of Hemming's co-worker, do die in this story.

Many people have criticized the novel on the basis that it should not have been written in this day when emphasis is on cooperation and bettering race relations.

However, it is the opinion of this reviewer that if a situation of this sort occurs it should be reported. The way to keep from reading about this sort of thing is to see that it doesn't occur.

BOOK REVIEW

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MARRIAGES ARE NOT MADE IN HEAVEN By Janet Fowler Nelson, published by the woman's Press, New York, 158 pp, \$1.75.

Here is a valuable book for married couples and those contemplating marriage. It discusses most of the problems which two people living as one sooner or later encounter.

Among the subjects discussed are sex adjustments, authority in the home from the point of status, budget, leisure-time interests and others.

The appendix has chapters on both the male and female reproductive system, birth control, and venereal disease.

Dr. Janet Fowler Nelson, the author, has had a wealth of experience with problems of young people. Some of her jobs have been with the YWCA, the USO, and she taught at New York university on Marriage and the Family.

GOOD FOR A LAUGH, by Bennett Cerf, published by Hanover House, Garden City, N.Y. 220 pp. \$2.00.

"Good For a Laugh" is one continuous laugh. Written by one of this century's best humorists, it includes witty stories from all walks of life and for all occasions.

For the story particularly suited to relieve tension and force a laugh in opening a banquet speech, delve into "Good for a Laugh."

Apt illustrations, by Doug Anderson, are displayed throughout the book.

Other books by Cerf include **Shake Well Before Using**, **Try and Stop Me**, and **Laughter, Incorporated**.

Walter White Article Issued In 22 Tongues

NEW YORK—"Time for a Progress Report," the article by Walter White, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, which appeared in the Saturday Review of Literature on September 22, 1951, has been reproduced in twenty-two languages and released to foreign language newspapers throughout the United States.

The Common Council for American Unity, released the article in Arabic, Czech, Danish, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian; Lithuanian; Norwegian; Polish; Russian; Serbo-Croatian; Slovak; Slovene; Spanish; Swedish; Ukrainian; Portuguese; Chinese and Japanese.

A preliminary report issued by Henry Lee Munson director of the letters from America campaign, listed 36 foreign language newspapers in 16 states whose reprints of the article had reached his office.

White Article In 22 Tongues

NEW YORK, Feb. 21—"Time for a Progress Report" the article by Walter White, Executive Secretary of the NAACP, which appeared in the Saturday Review of Literature, on September 22, 1951, has been reproduced in 22 languages and released to foreign language newspapers throughout the United States.

The Common Council for American Unity released the article in Arabic, Czech, Danish, Finnish, French, Greek Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Serbo-Croatian, Slovak, Slovene, Spanish, Swedish, Ukrainian, Portuguese, Chinese and Japanese.

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A study of Southern politics by Alexander Heard, Professor of Political Science and Research Professor in the institute for research in social science at the University of North Carolina, will be issued by the University of North Carolina Press on April 5, entitled "Two-Party South?" The volume contains a state-by-state analysis of the Dixiecrat movement and a discussion of the Republican party's position in the South. The book also describes the new Negro politics that grew up after the opening of white primaries to Negroes in 1944.

Negro Vote In Dixie Spurs 2-Party System

CHAPEL HILL, N. C.— The increasing Negro vote in the South is a major factor in the growth of a real two-party system in this region.

That is the belief of Alexander Heard, an experienced political scientist, whose new book "Two-Party South?" was published here Saturday.

After a three-year study of Southern politics in 11 states, Heard is certain that a two-party system is coming in the South, and he is convinced that the Negro vote will hasten its development.

In the six chapters of his book devoted to Negro politics, the author points out that the destruction in 1948 of the white primary removed an historical barrier to the growth of the Southern Republican party.

"The Negro is strengthening the liberal wing of the Democratic party in several states," Heard says. "And in doing so, he is helping to make that party unsatisfactory for the conservative Democrats, who already are restless and who are the most likely recruits for the Southern Republicans. Thus the Negro is encouraging the growth of competitive party politics in a very real way."

Professor Heard, who is on the staff of the University of North Carolina, has had extensive practical political experience and has contributed to earlier books on most detailed, up-to-date discussion available of Negro politics in this region.

'Uncle Tom's Cabin' 100 Years Old; Started Civil War, Still Best Seller

By JERRY KLEIN

NEW YORK — American tongues were set wagging just one hundred years ago by a book whose author modestly hoped would "make enough so I may have a silk dress." As things turned out, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" sold 3,000 copies the first day after publication and helped bring on the Civil War.

In 1852 its author, Harriet Beecher Stowe, was known chiefly as a quiet New England woman who'd done a little scholarly writing between her household chores as wife and mother. Her literary efforts had given no hint she would produce as provocative a volume as the one on the evils of Negroed slavery.

The daughter of a severe preacher, Lyman Beecher, Harriet was raised in a strictly moral atmosphere in Litchfield, Conn. At 12, she wrote an essay titled "Can the Immortality of the Soul be Studied by the Light of Nature?" And at 13, she composed a blank-verse play on a Greek pagan converted to Christianity.

A bit later, Harriet's family moved to Cincinnati, where they employed a Negro servant woman. This woman had been raised as a slave in Virginia, then auctioned and put to work on a sugar plantation in Louisiana. Somehow, she had managed to escape to the North while her husband remained enslaved in Kentucky.

Harriet got an inkling of slavery when she began writing the servant woman's letters to her husband. Several times Harriet crossed the Ohio River into Kentucky where she saw huge plantations worked by slaves, and Negro families separated on the auction block.

One night she and her brother, Henry, helped disguise a fugitive slave woman and her baby to safety from their pursuers. This experience later provided Harriet with the dramatic material for

the "Uncle Tom's Cabin" chapter on Eliza crossing the ice.

Another brother, Charles, worked in New Orleans. He told Harriet of a brutal overseer of slaves whom he had seen—a figure she later developed into the classic villain Simon Legree. Still, it was some time before Harriet would start to write her famous book.

In 1850 Congress passed the Fugitive Slave Act under which the Northern states were pledged to stop helping runaway slaves and to return them to their masters. By 1852, one out of every seven of America's 23,000,000 inhabitants was a slave.

By this time, too, Mrs. Stowe had moved with her husband to Brunswick, Md. There, she received one day from a sister-in-law in Boston a fateful letter.

The letter told of the sufferings endured by slaves being smuggled through Boston to freedom in Canada. "Now, Hattie," it said, "if I could just use the pen as you can, I would make this whole nation feel what an accursed thing slavery is!"

Mrs. Stowe recalled the things she'd seen and heard while living in Ohio. Then, one Sunday at church, she had a "vision" of a slave being beaten to death. Afterward, "deep in reverie," she returned home, locked herself in her room, and began writing on scraps of brown wrapping paper the story of Uncle Tom's death. Mrs. Stowe read the episode to her children and "they wept convulsively."

"Uncle Tom's Cabin wrote itself," she declared, "The Lord Himself wrote it. I was but an instrument in His hand."

Nevertheless, the writing was such an emotional trial that after completing the chapter in which Little Eva dies and goes to Heaven, Mrs. Stowe went to bed exhausted for 48 hours—"it had been almost a personal bereavement."

In book form, the story sold 100,000 copies in the first two months, and went through 120 editions the first year!

"Uncle Tom's Cabin" shocked Americans. When it was first produced as a play, theater advertisements declared, "There would be no impropriety in the religious portion of the community witnessing it . . . it is moral, religious and instructive . . . We are informed, that the manager has taken every precaution that no disorderly person be admitted to the theatre during the performance of this great production."

The morning after the opening, one reviewer called the play "a good rebuke to those ranting abolitionists who are continually talking about slavery, yet who do not do anything to either free the slave or better his condition."

Surely, "Uncle Tom's Cabin" helped convince the Northern states that slavery must be diminished and finally eliminated. Some said that but for the book, Lincoln would never have become President. And when Mrs. Stowe visited Lincoln at the White House, he remarked, "So this is the little lady who made this big war?"

The poet, P. L. Dunbar, wrote that "at one stroke" Mrs. Stowe "gave a race to freedom and herself to fame."

When she died, in 1896, a wreath of flowers was placed on her coffin by the Negro residents of Boston. With the flowers was a card. It read: "From the children of Uncle Tom."

26b 1952

We Live in the South

WE LIVE IN THE SOUTH. By Lois
Lanski. Illustrated by the author.
Roundabout America Books. 128
pp. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott
Company. \$2.50.

'Equal Races' Book Banned By U.S.A.

Inform P.I. magazine

BY NANCY CUNARD

PARIS — (ANP)— Recently UNESCO published in Paris a little book by Diana Teeds called "What Is Race?" wherein the author wrote that there is no "superior race".

One statement she used as an illustration of this was the fact that New York schools had held a competition, the result of which showed that colored pupils were as intelligent as white.

To the surprise and indignation of many here it was learned that orders were received from the U.S.A. for the book to be withdrawn. The general director of UNESCO, was obliged to make excuses and even came to London for the covers of copies sent there "to be torn up and sent back to Paris."

Reporting this with disgust under the title "Scandal at UNESCO," Les Lettres Francaises, one of the leading French literary weeklies, said some 10,000 copies had gone for sale to England. It reproduced the cover, which shows two children, one black, one white, holding hands, and a drop of blood, magnified, referring to the fact that no "inferiority" exists between races in the matter of blood corpuscles.

Recently, too, UNESCO published "Race and Culture" (The Race Question in Modern Science) by Michel Leiris, director of the "Black Africa" section at the Musee de l'Homme (the Smithsonian Institute of France) and in Charge of Research at the National Scientific Research Center.

Pat. 7-5-52
This booklet was extremely interesting and concise study almost every aspect of the races in the world, with the same conclusion: none is inherently "superior" to the others.

BOOK REVIEWS

by
GERTRUDE MARTIN

September

Sat. 9-8-52
'Yankee Priest' by Edward F. Murphy is a bubbling, interesting and surprisingly frank autobiography of a Catholic priest who went from Salem, Mass., to New Orleans to become a member of the Josephite Order, priests who serve as missionaries to Negroes. Ordained in 1918, Father Murphy later attended Catholic University in Washington, D. C., where he received his Ph D. After service in Baltimore and other charges in 1932 he became assistant pastor at St. Joan of Arc Church in New Orleans and teacher and spiritual adviser to students at Xavier University.

In many ways the author's account of his early years is the best part of his book. During his youth the Irish had not yet established their political power and were often discriminated against in employment. The senior Murphy, with a large family to support, found it hard to make ends meet. But both father and mother welcomed the news that the older son, Will, had decided to enter the Josephite Order, although it meant the loss of his earnings to the family. When the author, years later, made the same decision, the family joy was unbounded. Yet, by this time, it was clear that the other three elder sons would contribute little to the support of the family.

Father Murphy, an old friend of Eddie Dowling, has made many friends through him in the theatrical profession. He knew

Sinclair Lewis, studied with Monsignor Fulton Sheen, and traveled abroad with Richmond Barthe. His impressions of these and other well-known men and women are found throughout his book.

He turned to writing first in an attempt to help the family finances while he was studying for the priesthood. He showered a number of Catholic publications with articles, so many of which were published that he began writing under two noms de plume. He became the most popular Catholic novelist with the appearance of his first novel, 'The Scarlet Lily'.

Father Murphy has found his work among Negroes rewarding, although at times it was discouraging because of the prejudice of whites, on the one hand, and the unexpected reactions of Negroes, on the other.

'Yankee Priest' reminded me a little of 'A Tree Grows In Brooklyn', with its account of a close family life and the half-humorous, half-tender treatment of it. Father Murphy is writing of the actual events of his life, but his descriptions of his family and friends are fresh and uninhibited. His devotion to the cause of justice for Negroes is great and he reports great improvement during the years he has spent in New Orleans. Few readers will be able to resist the charm of 'Yankee Priest'.

'Yankee Priest' by Edward F. Murphy; Doubleday and Company; Garden City, New York; 1952; \$3.50.

BOOK REVIEW

By J. S. REDDING

You Can't Build a Chimney From the Top, by Joseph Winthrop Holley. William-Frederick Pamphlet Distributing Company, 311 W. 35th St., New York. 226 pp. \$3.00.

Joseph Winthrop Holley is founder and president of Albany State College in Albany, Georgia. Born the son of slaves in South Carolina in 1874, he begged and borrowed and burrowed his way into and out of Andover Academy and Lincoln University.

He chose the latter over Harvard because going to Harvard meant seven

long years more, and Joe

Holley didn't have much time. Besides, the New England environment "was gradually chilling the ardor and sympathy I had for my people in South Carolina and in the South generally."

That ardor and sympathy were expressed in an interview he had with Frederick Douglass when that rocky rebel was an old, old man.

"Mr. Douglass," Joe Holley said, "you have lived in both the old and the new dispensations. What have you to say to a young colored person just starting out? What should he do?" Douglass replied, "Agitate! Agitate! Agitate!"

Mr. Holley has never agitated for anything in his life. This is probably because his only conviction has been that "we colored people can get what we want, if it is within reason, from a white man if we approach him in the right way."

The right way to approach is hat-in-hand, teeth skinned back, on your knees. That was Holley's approach to "Pitchfork" Ben Tillman ("a stalwart," Mr. Holley calls him), Richard B. Russell, and to the two Talmadges, Gene and Herman.

The latter almost made Joe Holley the Chancellor of a Georgia colored University, since "a little university for colored people was Holley's very own idea."

But the idea didn't pan out, and Mr. Holley went back to Albany,

where he had an assistant principal "who furnished the dignity and the scholarship" while Holley himself did the work. It was pretty largely the work of helping the white man keep the colored man in his place.

And for his success in this, all the Governors of Georgia, from Hugh M. Dorsey right down to Herman Talmadge, have been "very kind to me." This kindness has brought Joe Holley prosperity and the sort of power in Georgia that Holley's hero, Booker Washington, had in the whole South.

Poor Opinions

But neither property nor power have made Holley wise. His book is a parade of silly and even inhumane opinions, such as.

"Always the economic law of the survival of the fittest should be the final judge of all our acts."

"Lynching should never have been made a political issue."

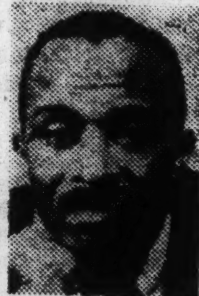
"The greatest hardships I have experienced in traveling on Jim Crow cars have been the bad behavior on the part of my own people."

"Only when a fellow has been up North for a few months and comes back (South) with a chip on his shoulder looking for trouble, is there likely to be trouble."

"Taken from any standpoint, the colored man is not ready to profit by going to the white universities of the South."

"The Southern States will have more money in the future; their prospects are rich. As they become more able, they will wish increasingly to take care of their colored people."

You Can't Build a Chimney From the Top is the case history of an accomplished toady.



Mr. Redding

BOOK REVIEW

By J. S. REDDING

Communism Versus The Negro, by William A. Nolan. Henry Regnery Company, Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. 276 pp. \$3.50.

For a group that boasts of its realism and its wisdom on the policy-making level, the communists have done some pretty stupid things in the various phases of their propaganda campaign among the colored Americans. But they didn't make much hay. Just why they failed is a moot question—or it was a moot question until *Communism Versus the Negro* settled it for us.

In the first phase, beginning in 1919, and ending with the great dismal failure of the communists depression, they geared their propaganda to world revolution. Colored American citizens would have one of its (the Communist Party's) activities must be subordinated to the aggressive ambition of a who at that time was their most trusted leader, could not himself make any appreciable number of his followers believe that their interests were common with the interests of colored people through out the world.

Under the auspices of the colored American Labor Congress, the communists tried to sell the idea that colored Americans were not only a potent force for world revolution, but were also the "historical leaders of their comrades in Africa." But colored people and especially laboring masses to whom the communists carried their appeal, would have none of it.

In the second phase of the propagandic struggle for the colored American mind, the communists came up with a jim-dandy—"Self Determination in the Black belt." This showed more than just an ignorance of historical fact and of American culture: it was an astounding stupidity when applied to the racial situation.

As a slogan it was fine, but as a principle, the communists explained, it meant "full freedom of separation, the broadest possible local (and national) autonomy..." Such a program was not only impractical; it was impossible.

Besides, colored Americans had strongly rejected a similar idea when it was proposed to found a forty-ninth state. They did not want separation and autonomy. They wanted integration and equality.

Knowledge Exploited